Group says GMA to get ₱20B from coco deal

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2001 ★ 76 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 349 ₱15

Biggest carrot cake

WOW! DI NATIN KAYANG UBUSIN 'TO!
ANG LAKI!

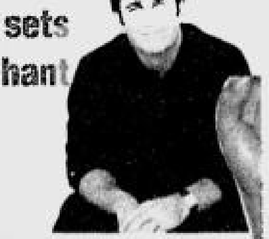
LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—"World record or bust."

Residents and tourists were beaming with pride when they saw Friday the King Carrot cake, which they described as the biggest cake they had seen.

BIGGEST/ A19

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

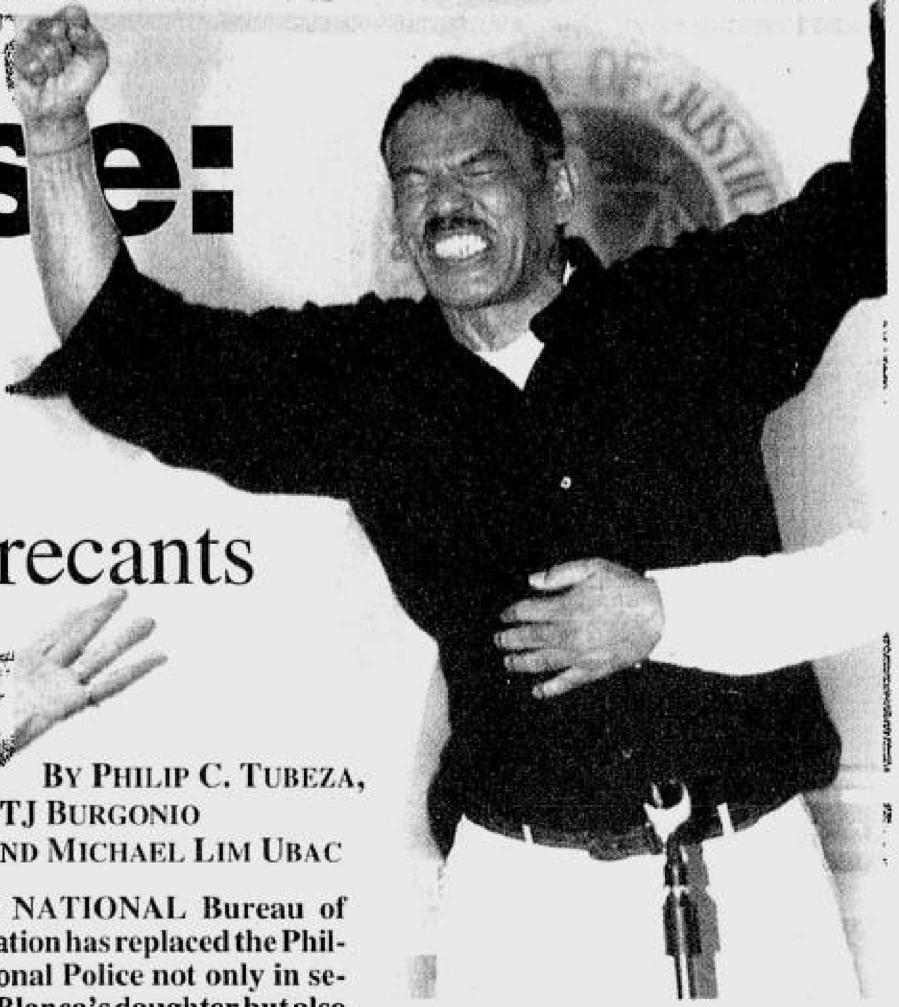
- Mel Gibson and Jet Li bring 'Invincible' to US TV
- 'Harry Potter' sets sights on triumphant holiday run
- Meet Star Circle's Batch X

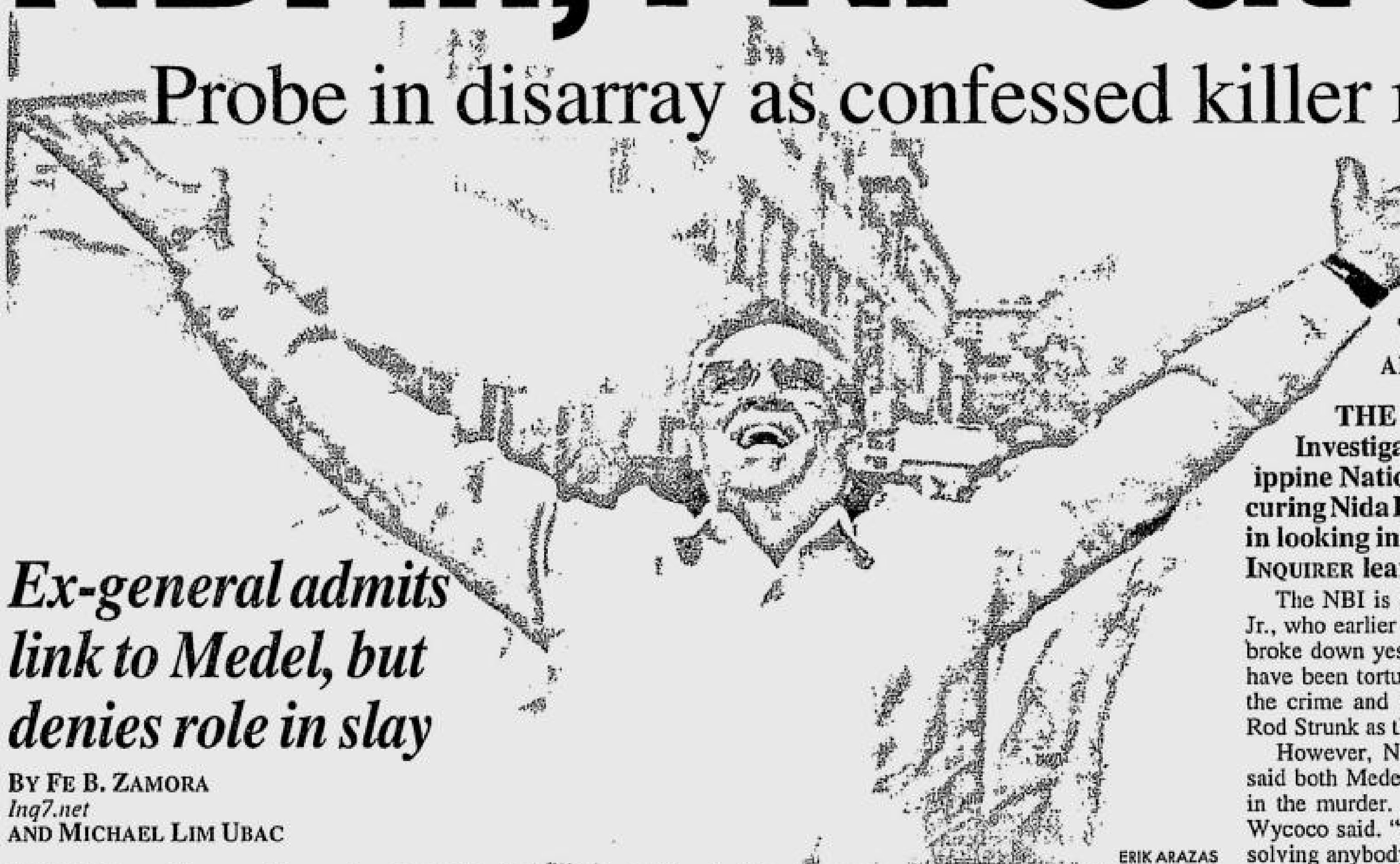


GIBSON

Nida Blanca case: NBI in, PNP out

Probe in disarray as confessed killer recants





ERIK ARAZAS

"CLEARED at this point" by the state prosecutor, a jubilant Rod Strunk walks out of the DOJ after the self-confessed killer of Nida Blanca, Philip Medel (top photo), went ballistic further muddling the murder mystery.

By Philip C. Tubeza,
TJ Burgonio
and Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has replaced the Philippine National Police not only in securing Nida Blanca's daughter but also in looking into her brutal murder, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

The NBI is also now holding Philip Medel Jr., who earlier confessed to killing Blanca but broke down yesterday morning and claimed to have been tortured by police into admitting to the crime and naming her American husband Rod Strunk as the mastermind.

However, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said both Medel and Strunk were still suspects in the murder. "Nobody is off the hook yet," Wycoco said. "We should be careful about absolving anybody especially when the investigation is not yet finished."

But State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who heads the two-member Department of Justice panel investigating the case, said Medel's retraction had virtually cleared Strunk.

The PNP flatly denied Medel's claim of torture. But officials of its Task Force Marsha admitted that Medel's recantation had put his confession in doubt, and that they had no other evidence to pin him down for the killing.

An NBI official said Blanca's daughter Katherine Jones Torres sought the bureau's protection yesterday afternoon. Five NBI agents were said to have replaced the PNP SWAT members who started securing Torres on her request last Monday, the day Medel went public with his confession.

Medel went into hysterics at the preliminary investigation conducted by the DOJ yesterday

NBI/ A21

Ex-general admits link to Medel, but denies role in slay

By Fe B. Zamora
Inq7.net
and Michael Lim Ubac

"BELIEVE me, I have nothing to do with this," said retired Brig Gen. Galileo Kintanar, who broke his silence yesterday amid a swirl of speculations linking him to the murder of Nida Blanca.

Kintanar, a former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, admitted knowing Philip Medel Jr., the actress' confessed killer who has since retracted his admission.

"I am not disowning a friend but I disown linkage to what he was doing," said Kintanar, who is renting the apartment on Kamias Street in Quezon City that Medel used.

He said he was willing to help in the formal investigation of the case if asked to do so. "I can help in the intelligence aspect," he said.

Kintanar, who served as Isafp chief from 1988

EX-GENERAL/ A21

'SI AKO' IS DEAD

After wife's suicide, Rudy sips champagne

By Nelson Flores
and Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WITH a half-filled champagne glass in his hand, former Ilocos Norte Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas met reporters at his home in Laoag City after the news broke that his wife, troubled actress Maria Teresa Carlson, had jumped to her death early yesterday morning in San Juan town. He appeared composed.

"She liked to look down from the porch. She could have slipped because I was told she was wearing boots when they found her body," Fariñas said.

San Juan police said the 38-year-old Carlson, Maria Teresa Gerodiaz-Fariñas in real life, jumped from the 23rd floor of the Platinum 2000 condominium's air well and landed on the 3rd floor of the building, located on Annapolis street in Greenhills. The building is only a few meters away from Atlanta Center, where actress Nida Blanca was killed early this month.

Carlson died on the spot. She had widely been rumored to be the victim of spousal abuse, and in 1996 had actually spoken to the media about her ordeal as a battered wife. She later retracted her statements, and the couple reconciled.

Investigators said she jumped to her death at about 1:30 a.m. It was her second attempt to jump from the building that night, Supt. Rodrigo Degracia said.

The first time, her constant companion Roselle Flores was able to stop her, Degracia said. After a few moments, an apparently calm Carlson asked Flores for a piece of paper and pencil.

She said she wanted to write a note of apology to the building's guards, because she sometimes treated them rudely.

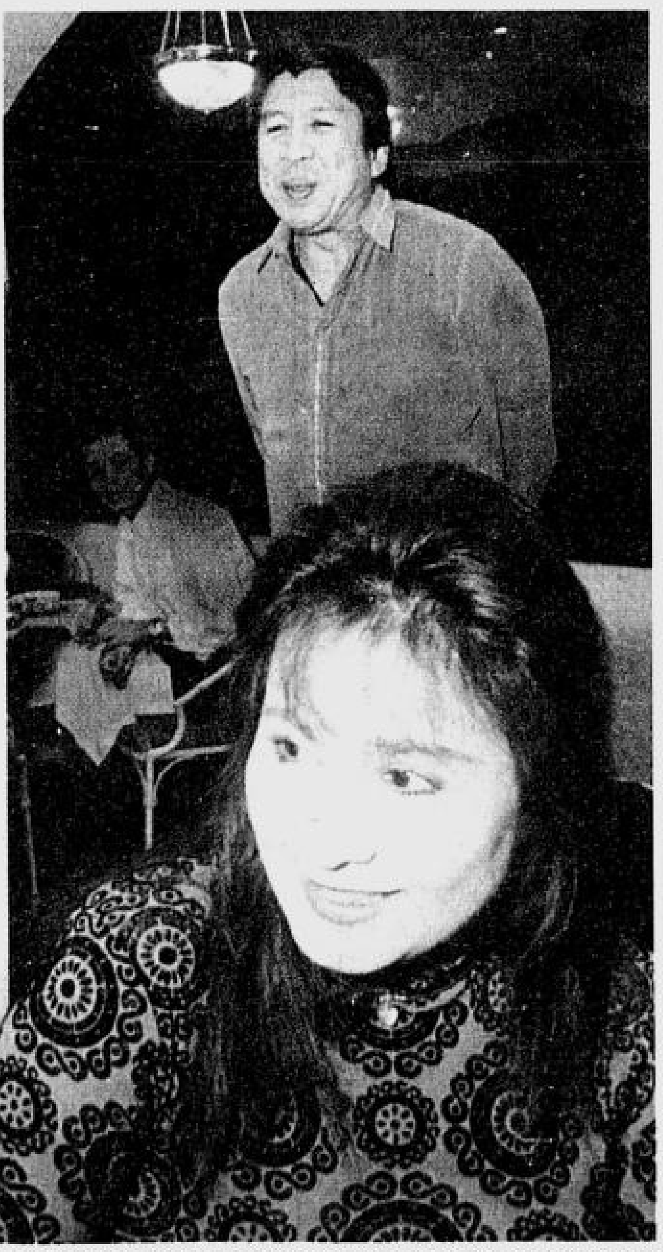
When Flores went to fetch the paper and pencil, the actress, a mainstay of the popular 1980s television situation comedy "Chicks to Chicks," rushed out and jumped to her death.

Fariñas met reporters while overseeing his household staff, which were running errands for the expected arrival of Carlson's body from Manila.

He occasionally gave personal tips to his two younger sons, aged 5 and 6, who were taking turns driving around on a golf cart and a mini-motorbike on the family's driveway.

In the morning, a funeral parlor service car delivered to the Fariñas compound a casket which reportedly cost P750,000.

AFTER/ A20



THE EVER-CONTROVERSIAL Fariñas couple in a rare public display of conviviality in February 1998 as they launched an Ilocos Norte festival in Manila.

RYAN HERNANDEZ

Fariñas 'drove her to suicide'

By Leah Salterio
and Juliet Javellana

SHE tried to find help, but in the end nobody could help Maria Teresa Carlson against a powerful and "untouchable" husband.

Ana Leah Sarabia, vice president of the women's group Kalakasan, which tried to rescue Carlson from her domestic violence ordeal five years ago, admitted yesterday that she had expected Carlson's tragic end.

"It was a high possibility because she had nowhere to go," Sarabia said, as she went over the records of her group's three-year relationship with Carlson.

"The fact that she was forced to take her own life this time means that it must be extremely horrible," she said.

Sarabia shivered at the mention of Carlson's husband, Rodolfo Fariñas, a former governor and congressman of Ilocos Norte.

She said she believes that after what Carlson had endured, Fariñas did not even have to push her off the condominium's balcony.

"He drove her into killing herself. Probably he's just pushing her so hard so that she would kill herself and he would not be accused of murder," she said.

"I don't know what to say about

FARIÑAS/ A20

Gloria's big push wins Bush support for RP vets' cause

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—They got a taste of the Macapagal temper.

When US officials of the Veterans Affairs office in the US capital told President Macapagal-Arroyo that they were still studying whether to support the long-pending Filipino veterans bills in Congress, she conveyed to them "the impatience of the Filipino people."

Veterans leaders in the US and in the Philippines were "in awe" at the strong and sustained advocacy made by Ms Macapagal on their behalf during her three-day visit here.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, who was with the President's official party, recalled that US officials had one description for Ms Macapagal: "She's a very forceful and intense leader."

Retired Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo, president of the Veterans Federation and a member of the Philippine delegation told the INQUIRER: "I was present when the President met (Monday,

GLORIA/ A20

Taliban won't yield Kunduz as talks fail

KABUL/WASHINGTON—Northern Alliance troops and tanks launched an attack on the besieged Afghan city of Kunduz on Thursday after attempts to negotiate a Taliban surrender collapsed.

Kunduz is the last stronghold of the Taliban in northern Afghanistan and one of the two remaining pockets of resistance in the country, along with the Islamic militia's southern citadel of Kandahar.

If Kunduz falls, the Taliban would be left with control of only their so-called spiritual home around Kandahar, for a final fight against the US-

TALIBAN/ A19

Nur used 'bribed outsiders,' says rival

By Blanche Rivera
and Dona Pazzibugan

THE man who seeks to replace Nur Misuari as regional governor said yesterday the armed followers of the renegade Moro leader were not members of the Moro National Liberation Front but "bribed outsiders."

Parouk Hussin, a member of the Council of 15 which ousted Misuari from the MNLF and the administration's official candidate for governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, also told the INQUIRER there was no need to conduct a loyalty check among MNLF members.

"We know our people. They are unhappy with Misuari," he said in a telephone interview.

On the same day, the noose around Misuari tightened some more after Indonesia and Malaysia pledged to help bring the fugitive governor to justice, some 1,500 more troops sailed to Jolo to join the pursuit operations. Even the political opposition offered to help the administration solve the crisis.

An arrest team led by a Moro police general has been formed and the Department of Foreign Affairs instructed to cancel Misuari's passport.

Back from her US working visit, President Macapagal-Arroyo reiterated her order to have Misuari arrested.

"I hate to do this to Misuari, but he broke the law," she told reporters yesterday afternoon.

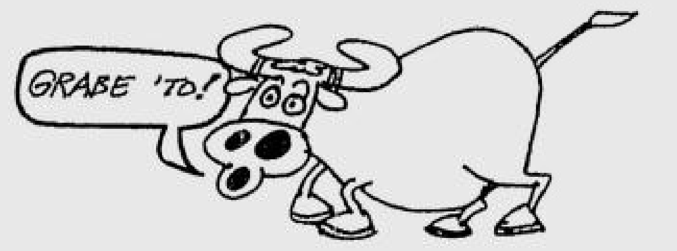
Ms Macapagal said she personally called up Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri to alert her about Misuari's reported escape to friendly Islamic countries.

"She said, and I quote, 'Gloria, whatever you need, just let me know. If you need anything, just call.' So (she gave us) all-out support," the President said.

She added that she had also sent word to Mahathir through an emissary, whom she did not identify.

NUR/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE



Iraqi, Jordanian arrested

AN IRAQI teacher was arrested in the southern Philippines Friday on suspicion of having links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, an official said.

Mohammad Sabri Selamah, 50, was arrested at his home in the village of Simony near Sultan Kudarat town, Army spokesperson Maj. Julieto Ando said.

A Manila court had issued an arrest warrant for the suspect, who is "believed to have links with suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden," Ando told reporters.

Authorities seized explosives and tools for forging passports at Selamah's house, Ando said.

Selamah is the director of the Islamic Koranic Memorization Center, a school that teaches children about Islam's holy book. He arrived in the Philippines in 1998.

In Manila, police raided an apartment and arrested an unidentified man, who claimed to be from Jordan, on suspicion he was a terrorist.

Police found a handgun and detonating cords for explosives in the suspect's room, members of the justice department's anti-terrorist unit said shortly after the arrest. *AFP*

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DEAN RICARDO L. SADAC
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GMA to get ₱20B from coco levy deal–PCA

By Armand N. Nocum and Carlito Pablo

ONCE supportive of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the People's Consultative Assembly yesterday accused her of conniving with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to settle the coconut levy fund issue for P20 billion.

In a press briefing, PCA Secretary General Ma. Linda Olaguer-Montayre accused Ms Macapagal of negotiating a "compromise agreement" with Cojuangco regarding the P130-billion coco levy fund, where the President allegedly stands to earn P20 billion for a settlement with Cojuangco.

"Should we not question the taking over by the Office of the President of the Philippine Coconut Authority so that it could directly oversee the compromise agreement with Cojuangco in exchange for which the President will reportedly get P20 billion to use in 2004?" the PCA asked in a statement.

Montayre added that part of the deal involves the President "leaving Lakas-NUCD and joining the National People's Coalition"—Cojuangco's party—before the 2004 elections.

Yolly Hoffman of the Philippine People's Parliament (PPP) said they have "the goods" on the President in the alleged scam.

Montayre said a mutual friend of the President's and Cojuangco, who was a witness to the alleged negotiations for the P20-billion bribe, will be coming out to confirm the allegations during the PCA's National Summit on Corruption on Nov. 27.

Montayre said one of those who will also speak at the summit is retired military general Virgilio David, PCA administrator during the Ramos administration.

In its statement, the PCA also accused the President of receiving P3 billion from tycoon Lucio Tan for the "non-pursuance of the P27-billion tax evasion case against him and of taking $18 million in IMPSA commissions of which $2 million reportedly went to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez."

"What about the reported $20 million given to the First Couple by Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez in exchange for his non-extradition?" the PCA said.

The PCA asked the President to resign in 60 days, lest she face the danger of losing her post through another people uprising.

The President yesterday flatly rebuffed the call for her resignation made by the PCA.

"I told you already—they (PCA) don't mean anything to me," Ms Macapagal responded coldly when asked about the PCA's demand.

It wasn't the first time Ms Macapagal had said the PCA, one of the civil society groups that helped boot out President Joseph Estrada, meant nothing to her.

She made the same comment weeks ago when the PCA in an open letter asked her to institute reforms or resign within 30 days. The deadline lapsed Thursday.

"They don't speak for the people," the President said at her regular Malacañang press conference.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao decried as "lies" the allegations made by Montayre that Ms Macapagal was out to make a P20-billion commission in connection with a compromise agreement with Cojuangco on the coco levy issue.

"Montayre has been airing unsubstantiated charges for a long time. We refuse to comment further on her lies," Tiglao said in a phone interview.

Tiglao said the Palace was unfazed by Montayre's announcement that the PCA is set to present a witness who would corroborate the allegations about the P20-billion commission for the President.

"Let them present their witness," Tiglao said.

There were attempts during the Estrada administration to forge an out-of-court settlement on the levy, particularly the P50 billion tied up in 27 percent of San Miguel Corp. shares.

Cojuangco was able to re-acquire the chairmanship of SMC at the outset of the Estrada administration. The coconut farmers had accused him of using the coco levy funds to acquire control of the food and beverage giant during the Marcos regime.

Estrada issued Executive Order 313 outlining a compromise deal among the claimants of the shares, but this was rejected by the farmers.

The same EO was later suspended by President Macapagal.

A few days ago, Commissioner Ruben Carranza of the Presidential Commission on Good Government said administration officials involved in the coco levy dispute have decided to continue litigation to gain control of the levy rather than pursue a compromise agreement with Cojuangco.

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Erap formally asks to have eye surgery

By Volt Contreras

WILL it be more visits to the doctor and fewer trips to court for Joseph Estrada?

The jailed ex-president has formally asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to undergo eye surgery at a private clinic in Makati, and to also allow him to visit the clinic as many times as necessary for post-operative checkups.

The 65-year-old deposed leader is to have the cataract on his left eye removed at the Asian Eye Institute at the Rockwell Center, his lawyers said in a motion for leave filed yesterday.

The motion cited a Nov. 20 medical summary from Dr. Amado Veloso Jr., an AEI ophthalmologist, which suggested that Estrada make his "initial visit" on Thursday, Nov. 29, at 2 p.m.

"If cataract surgery is warranted, an appropriate schedule for operation shall be made," the eye doctor said.

The Sandiganbayan's Third Division, which is handling the plunder case against Estrada has already excused him from attending four hearings after he complained of his eye problem.

Apart from developing a cataract since 1998, Estrada is also said to have developed a cyst under his left eye, causing that portion of his face to swell. The motion said this would also require a checkup at the AEI.

On Thursday, the division chaired by Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy granted the waivers of appearance filed by Estrada, his co-accused son Jinggoy and lawyer Edward Serapio.

This means the three will no longer be required to attend every hearing, unless ordered by the court to do so on specific trial dates.

The court also reduced the number of hearings per week to Mondays and Wednesdays only.

In his medical summary, Veloso said three tests, which would take a total of four hours, would be performed on Estrada on Nov. 29: a comprehensive eye examination, potential acuity meter testing and corneal topography.

Since the discovery of his cataract, Estrada "had complained of further weakening of vision and it was found that the refraction in both eyes is not balanced," Veloso said.

All these complaints "may indicate a serious eye problem that (would make) cataract surgery an option to improve his vision and to relieve him of these symptoms."

A post-operative evaluation will be scheduled the day after surgery and every other day for two weeks, the eye doctor said. The Third Division has yet to rule on Estrada's motion to undergo surgery in the United States for his arthritic knees.

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3 men to do Vicky's job

THE JOB that Vicky Garchitorena will be relinquishing on Dec. 31—that of head of the Presidential Management Staff with Cabinet rank—will be divvied up among three men.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said Silvestre "Yoyong" Afable, now undersecretary for the peace process, will assume "the strategic post and title of PMS head."

Rafael "Rapa" Lopa, the executive director of the Makati-based Aquino Center, will be taking over the Cabinet part of the job, Ms Macapagal said at her regular press conference.

Ricardo Saludo, the PMS undersecretary, "will probably do a lot of the paper-pushing portion of the work," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said Afable, a former defense undersecretary, was her personal choice for PMS head.

Also yesterday, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas denied that she was resigning from the Cabinet.

Sto. Tomas said there was no reason for her to quit and did not know where the rumors of her alleged plan to resign came from.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson said reports that the DOLE chief and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin were resigning were pure speculation.

The President confirmed that Garchitorena would be leaving by yearend.

"Her job will be cut up," she said.

The President, however, said that Garchitorena was "still going to do something for the government."

Garchitorena will chair a study group that will work out how the principles of Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto could be applied to help the landless obtain land and set up small enterprises.

De Soto has said that one way for the poor to have access to capital is through landholdings given by government.

The President did not comment on Garchitorena's statement that she was quitting because of Palace intrigues.

Garchitorena submitted her resignation the week before the President left for her United States visit.

Ms Macapagal said Garchitorena had recommended Lopa to replace her as Cabinet Secretary and Saludo to do the paper work. ***Carlito Pablo with a report from Blanche S. Rivera***

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Lecture on early migrations to RP

VICTOR Joaquin Paz, archaeologist and historian, will explain early migrations to the Philippines from the beginning to around the last millenium B.C. in a lecture at the National Museum on Dec. 8.

Paz, who obtained his Ph.D. in archaeology from Britain's Cambridge University, will review academic views on the subject as well as share the current state of knowledge based on archaeological, linguistic and genetic data.

The lecture will start at 10 a.m. at the Tambunting-Villongco Hall, Museum of the Filipino People. It is open to the public at minimum admission rates. Call Jing or Michelle at 813-0771 for inquiries.

President admits deal to bring US troops back

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AFTER denying it earlier this week, President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted yesterday Philippine defense officials were crafting a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) with the United States.

The President even admitted the draft agreement, as it currently stands, would give the Americans access to all ports and facilities in the country, something akin to the US having military bases here.

Aware of the impending public backlash over the supposedly "secret deal," Ms Macapagal was quick to add, however, that she will not allow the Americans to put up military bases in the country again.

"There's no agreement yet. Well, there are proposals but there's no agreement," she told reporters.

She said the MLSA contains features of the Acquisition Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) the US proposed in 1997 but which found strong opposition for supposedly being a basing agreement.

"Something like that, yes," Ms Macapagal said when asked if the MLSA was the same as the ACSA.

"But the position of the Philippines is not to put anything down that looks like basing agreements. So that's why there's no agreement yet," she added.

She said the final agreement should not require ratification by Congress. A bilateral agreement would only require the President's approval.

"It should be faster. That's why I would rather fashion it (in a way) that it doesn't have to go through Congress. Because as it is proposed now we would have to go through Congress," she said.

Under the proposed deal, the US reportedly wants to get "logistic support, supplies and services" from the Philippines—to include construction of base operations support, storage services, use of facilities and ammunition.

Critics of the proposed deal warned this translates to virtual military bases for the Americans.

The Constitution bans foreign troops and foreign military facilities on Philippine soil.

After the Senate decided not to renew the RP-US Military Bases Treaty in 1991, the Americans were forced to pull out of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base.

In 1997, however, the US proposed the ACSA as a means of letting American troops into the country again.

When this was shelved, they proposed the Visiting Forces Agreement, which allowed US troops to come in for large-scale joint war exercises and which was approved by Congress.

Reports said the US wants to revive the ACSA to strengthen its global anti-terrorism campaign.

While she was in Washington DC earlier this week, the President denied newspaper reports in Manila that a MLSA was in the works.

Her spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, even said it was "the most preposterous thing he had ever heard."

In a press briefing yesterday morning, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez insisted "there's no such agreement."

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. was reportedly left out in the crafting of the MLSA because he voted against the VFA.

Gloria assures Burnham's folks

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has personally assured the parents of American missionary Martin Burnham that the Philippine military is doing all it can to rescue their son and his wife from their Abu Sayyaf captors.

Ms Macapagal, who visited the United States over the past week, said she spoke by telephone with Paul Burnham and his wife and regretted that she could not personally meet with them as they lived in Kansas.

"They were very, very, very understanding," Ms Macapagal said.

"I told them that what we're trying to do is to rescue their son and daughter-in-law and keep them safe. And they said they understand and they appreciate the government's position."

The President learned that Martin had grown up in the Philippines. His father, Paul, lived in Benguet province for about 20 years.

"He said they (the Burnhams) loved the Philippines and they're not putting the blame on the country. I said I'm glad because the people who did this are very unFilipino," the President said.

Martin and his wife, Gracia, who are both missionaries, were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf terrorists from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan last May.

The terrorists beheaded a fellow US captive, Guillermo Sobero, last June.

Asked if Bush, who gave a commitment to help in crushing the Abu Sayyaf, had discussed with her the fate of the Burnhams, Ms Macapagal said: "We did not talk about that." *Dona Pazzibugan*

A Breakthrough Event for Building Brand Equity

Relationship marketing seeks the loyalty of the target market. It is a part of long-term brand strategy that may not immediately boosts sales figures. But if it is sensitively attuned to its target clients, it will sustain a brand's long term survival in a highly competitive environment.

One of the most successful relationship-building events in the country today is the Johnson's Pure Essentials Teen Cheer Competition. The brand's franchise manager Ms. Lourdes A. Treñas believes that the key to a successful and meaningful relationship building event is that it must communicate the core values of the brand and its image, "Johnson's Pure Essentials is a brand for female teens that provides mild, gentle and caring skin care products that won't harm their skin. It is adequately captured in the brand's tagline, "Your skin's best friend."

With these premium traits, a suitable event that falls within the friendship motif must be identified. In 1997, Johnson's Pure Essentials and Events Circuit came up with the right marketing event a cheering competition for teens, "Cheering is something high school students enjoy doing," says Adette Guevara, general manager of Events Circuit.

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Imelda unwittingly bares FM, Lucio Tan tie-up

By Donna Cueto

IN an ironic twist in the Marcos illegal wealth cases, former First Lady Imelda Marcos has unwittingly provided the government with the most valuable evidence yet in the case against her and Chinese-Filipino business tycoon Lucio Tan.

Imelda has for the first time admitted that her husband, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was the beneficial owner of most of the Lucio Tan companies, including Foremost Farms Inc., Asia Brewery Inc. and Fortune Tobacco Corp., among others.

In addition, she has provided the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency set up to recover the Marcos ill-gotten wealth, with supporting evidence.

The Lucio Tan firms, including Shareholdings Inc., Tan's holding company, are the subject of a 14-year-old illegal wealth case filed against the Marcoses and Tan.

The PCGG said it was amused by Imelda's counter-suit against the government for P20 billion over allegations the Marcoses had amassed illegal wealth during her husband's 20-year rule.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said there was "absolutely no basis" for Imelda's claim.

Another commissioner, Victoria Avena, said the PCGG may not even need to reply to Imelda's suit.

"We are amused by her counter-claim, although the plunder she committed is not amusing," Carranza said yesterday.

"She should not blame the PCGG for her sleepless nights, mental anguish and moral shock," he said. "That is what plunderers feel for their acts."

But the PCGG commissioners were elated by Imelda's cross-claim on the Lucio Tan firms as they said it was the first time she admitted that her late husband owned 60 percent of the Tan firms and holding companies.

"This is absolutely beneficial to the government," Avena said.

She said the PCGG might even consider using Imelda as a hostile witness in the case against her.

The assertions that Imelda made in her 24-page amended answer were already a lot of help, she said.

Avena said Imelda's own admission proved that Tan was a front guy, a dummy, for the Marcoses. "He benefited very much from the Marcos decrees," she said.

Carranza explained that Imelda first submitted her answer to the ill-gotten wealth case in 1995, but it was not very detailed back then.

All she admitted to then was that Marcos had acquired an interest in the Tan holding firms and companies that the government has claimed form part of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth.

But in the amended answer that she filed recently, Imelda revealed the details of an elaborate 60-40 wealth-sharing scheme between Marcos and Tan.

Imelda said that 60 percent of Shareholdings Inc., was really owned by the Marcoses.

"This tallies with our complaint. It simplifies our case. It supports our case," Carranza said.

In her amended answer filed with the Sandiganbayan's 5th Division, Imelda said her husband had "beneficial ownership" together with Lucio Tan, his family and associates, in at least seven operating companies, long before and continuing through 1985.

She identified these firms as Himmel Industries, Fortune Tobacco Corp., Foremost Farms, Asia Brewery, Grandspan Development Corp., Silangan Holdings and Dominium Realty and Construction Corp.

"Ferdinand Marcos had a 60 percent beneficial ownership in said companies, which beneficial interests were held in trust by Lucio Tan personally and through his family members and business associates who appeared as the recorded stockholders of said companies," she said in her amended answer.

Judge inhibits self from Dacer case

A MANILA regional trial court judge yesterday voluntarily inhibited himself from the Dacer-Corbito double-murder case but denied prosecutors' allegations he had acted with "bias and prejudice" in the case.

Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada of Manila RTC Branch 41 voluntarily withdrew after three state prosecutors and the counsel of one of the accused, Supt. Glenn Dumlao, filed a motion for him to inhibit himself from hearing the case.

In his one-page order dated Nov. 22 but issued yesterday afternoon, Ponferrada said he had acted with "utmost objectivity, fairness and dispatch" in his handling of the case.

But because of the state prosecutors' "unfounded" expression of distrust and suspicion, he said he was voluntarily inhibiting himself from the case.

Ponferrada ordered the records of the case forwarded to the RTC executive judge to be re-raffled.

The judge figured in a disagreement with the prosecutors after he rejected a justice department motion which sought to exclude four of the accused—Dumlao, brothers Jimmy and William Lopez and Alex Diloy—from the charges.

The justice department wanted the four to become state witnesses.

Ponferrada also denied a prosecution move to include Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao II and Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, former high-ranking officials of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, among the accused.

The prosecutors complained that the judge acted with bias and prejudice when he resolved the motions. *Jerome Aning*

Pagcor hikes workers' perks

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. announced yesterday a "bigger and better health care package" for its 10,000 employees after the agency's profits rose by 21 percent in October.

Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino said the expanded health care program will be implemented next year, after "inflation and other economic factors have negatively affected the present health care package."

The new health plan will "substantially increase the present hospitalization budget which employees can avail of. It will also provide generous subsidies for maternity cases and ensure a faster processing system of all health claims," Genuino said.

Genuino has ordered the setting up of a state-of-the-art health infrastructure program for Pagcor through the establishment of modern outpatient clinics complete with laboratories, X-ray rooms and pharmacies.

Dental clinics will also be put up in all the casino branches and in the Pagcor corporate office on Roxas Boulevard, he said.

This year up to October, Pagcor's income totaled P14.6 billion, a 21 percent increase in profits compared to the same period last year.

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2 storms bring rains to RP

TYPHOON "Ondoy" has maintained its strength and remained almost stationary yesterday, with storm signal no. 2 still hoisted over Northern and Eastern Samar and Catanduanes.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Northern and Eastern Samar will experience moderate to heavy rains with winds up to 75 kph, while coastal waters in these areas will be rough to very rough.

The rest of eastern Visayas, the Bicol region and Palawan will experience moderate to heavy rains with winds of not more than 55 kph with rough coastal waters, Pagasa said.

Storm signal no. 1 is in effect over the Camarines provinces, southern Quezon, the rest of Samar, Albay, Burias Island, Sorsogon, Masbate, the Leyte provinces, Biliran Island, Dinagat Island, Siargao Island and Surigao del Norte.

These areas will have moderate to heavy rains and winds of not more than 60 kph today, Pagasa said. Coastal waters will be rough and dangerous to small sea craft.

Pagasa advised residents in areas threatened by Ondoy to take precautionary measures against possible flooding and landslides.

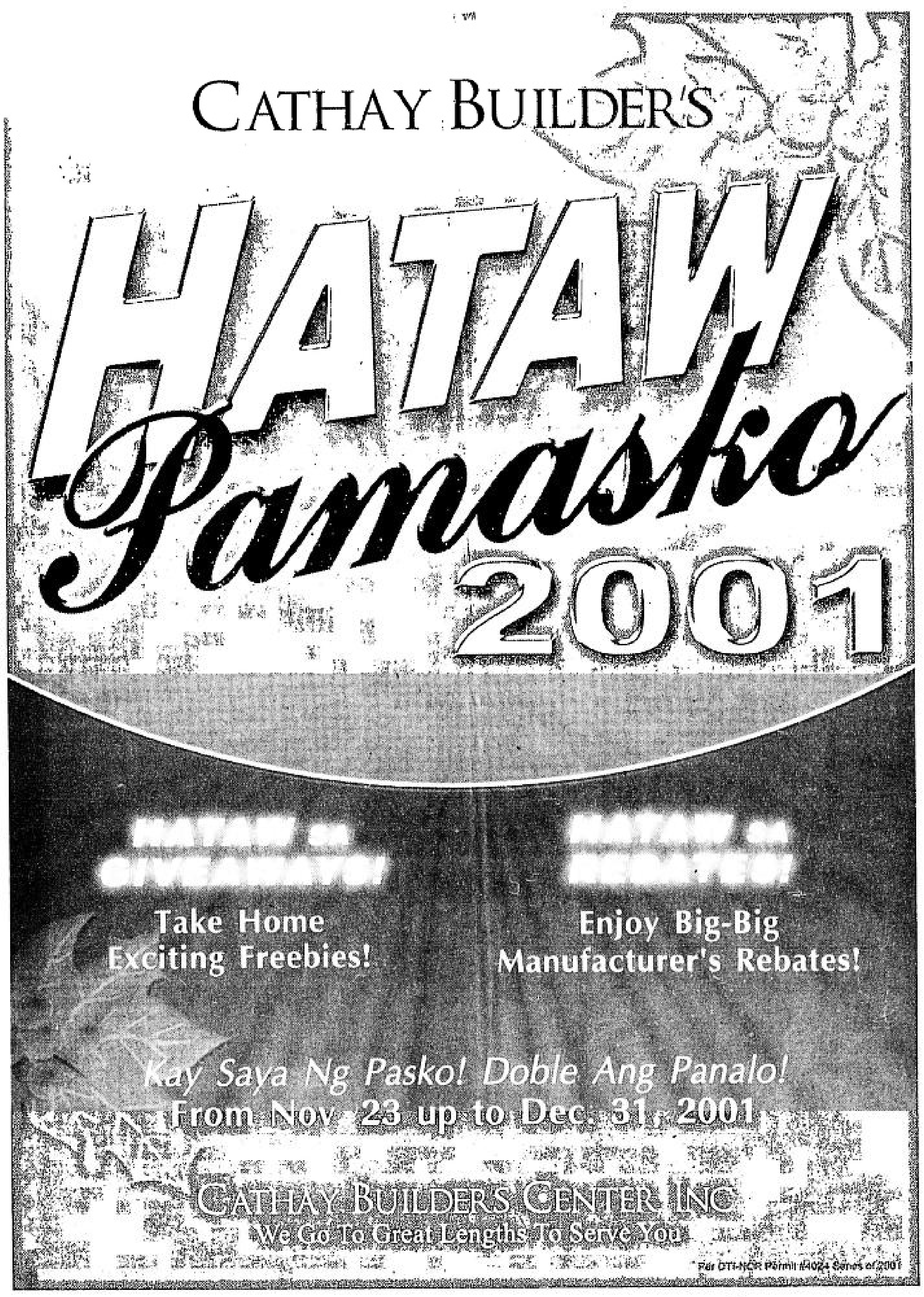
Ondoy was estimated at 2 p.m. yesterday at 380 km east northeast of Guiuan, Eastern Samar or 580 km east southeast of Legaspi City with maximum sustained winds of 75 kph near the center and gustiness up to 90 kph.

Pagasa said Ondoy will remain quasi-stationary, and was estimated to be 400 km east of Catarman, Northern Samar or 500 km east southeast of Legaspi City by this morning.

Tropical depression "Pabling," on the other hand, was estimated to be 150 km west northwest of Balabac Island, Palawan, or 330 km southwest of Puerto Princesa City with maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center. It was forecast to move slowly east northeast.

Pabling will be over southern Palawan or 180 km west southwest of Puerto Princesa this morning, Pagasa said. It is expected to weaken between the next 24-36 hours.

Storm signal no. 1 is in effect over Palawan where moderate to heavy rains and winds of not more 55 kph will be experienced today. Coastal waters will be rough and dangerous to small sea craft, Pagasa said. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*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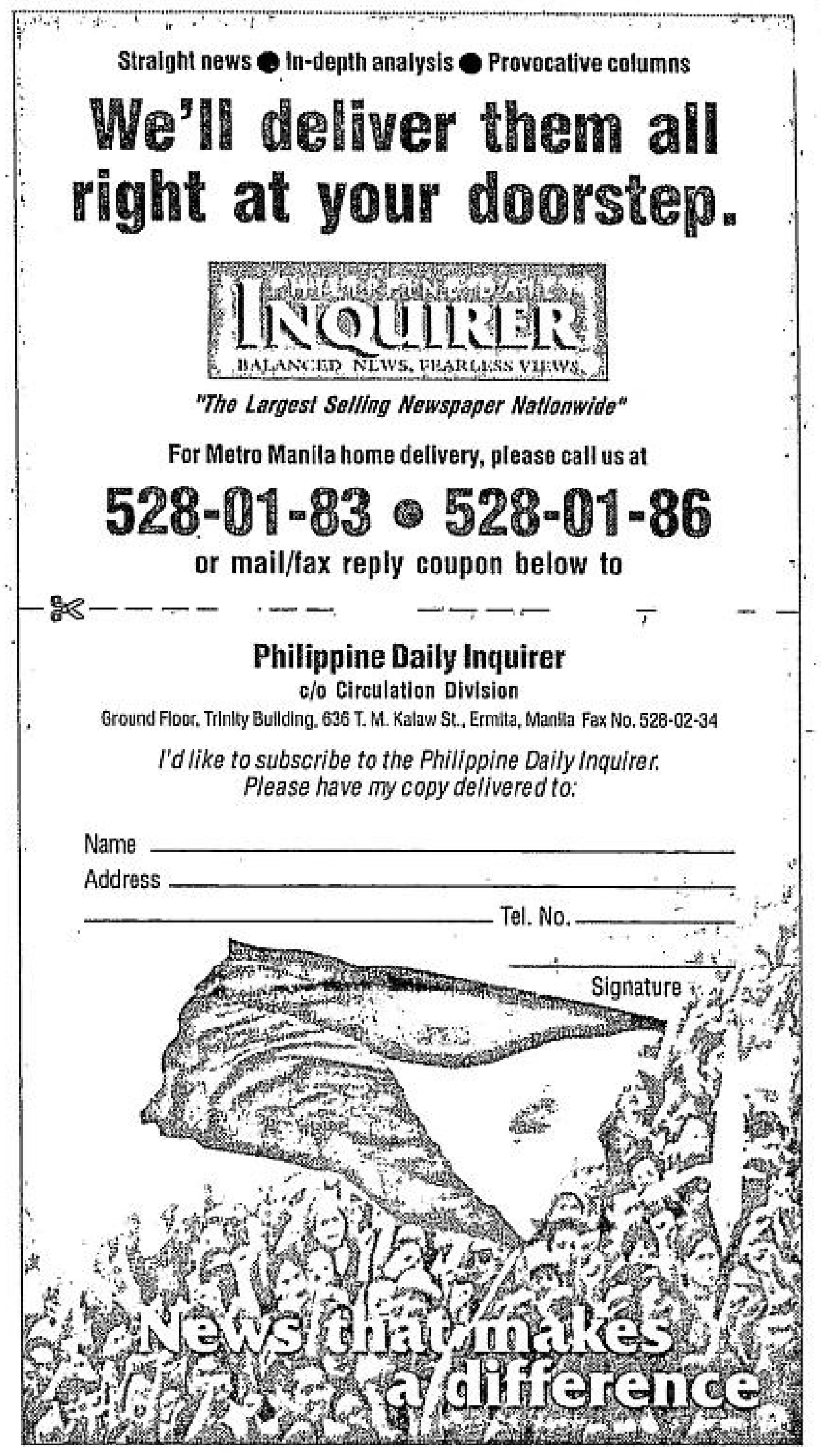
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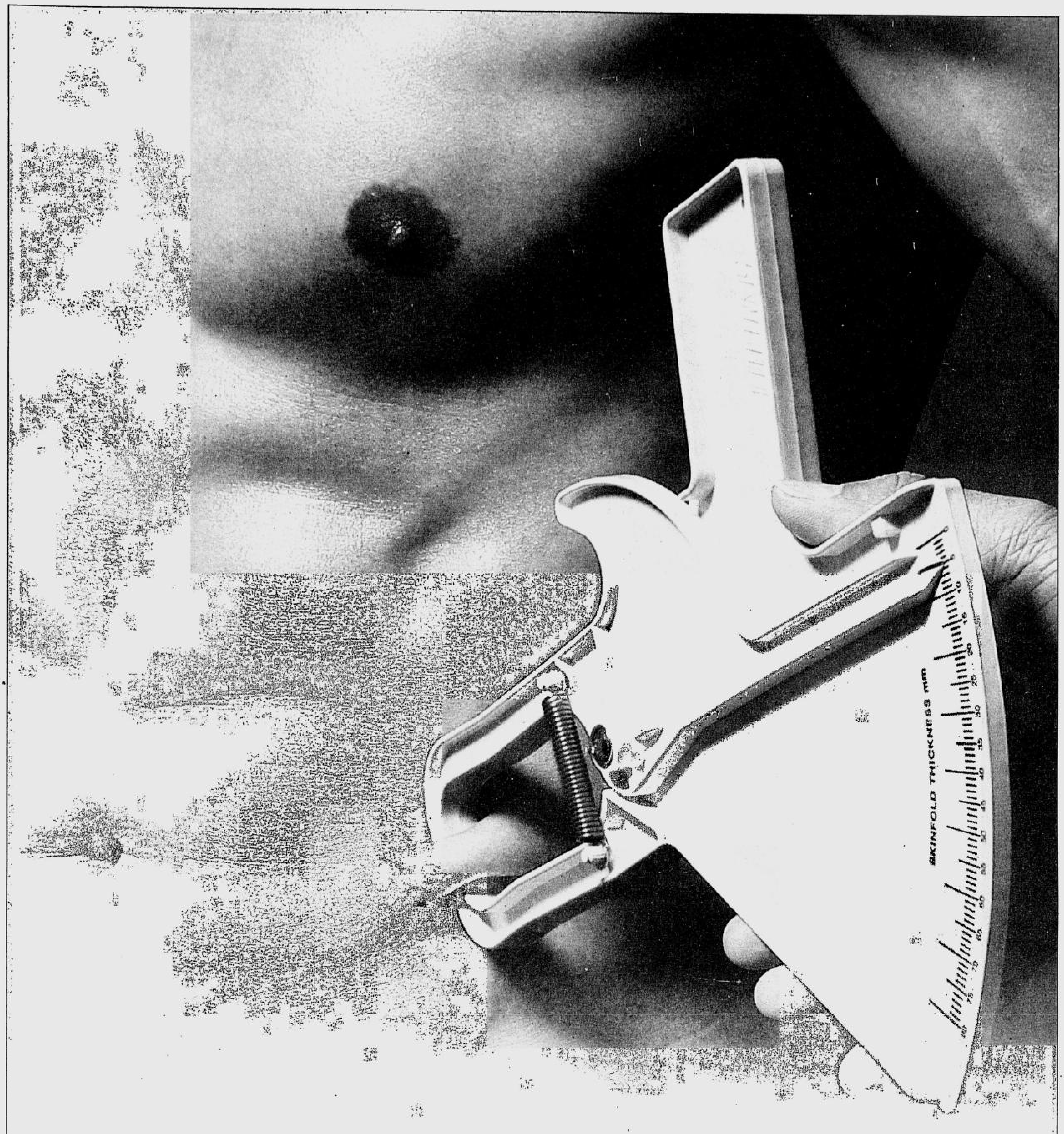

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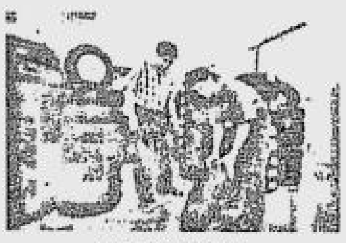
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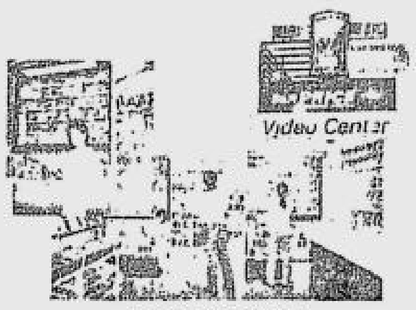
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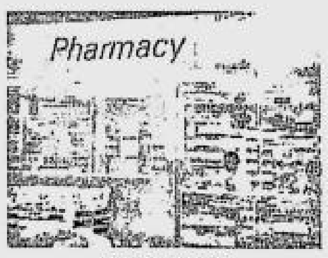

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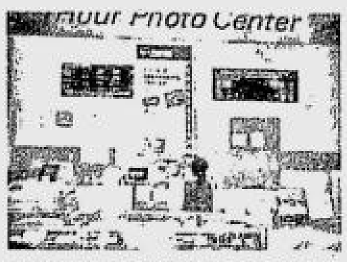
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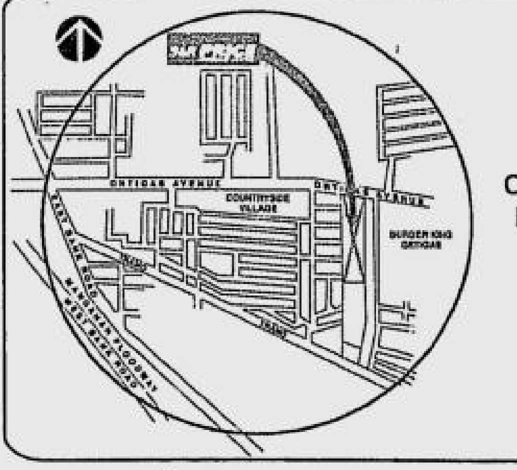
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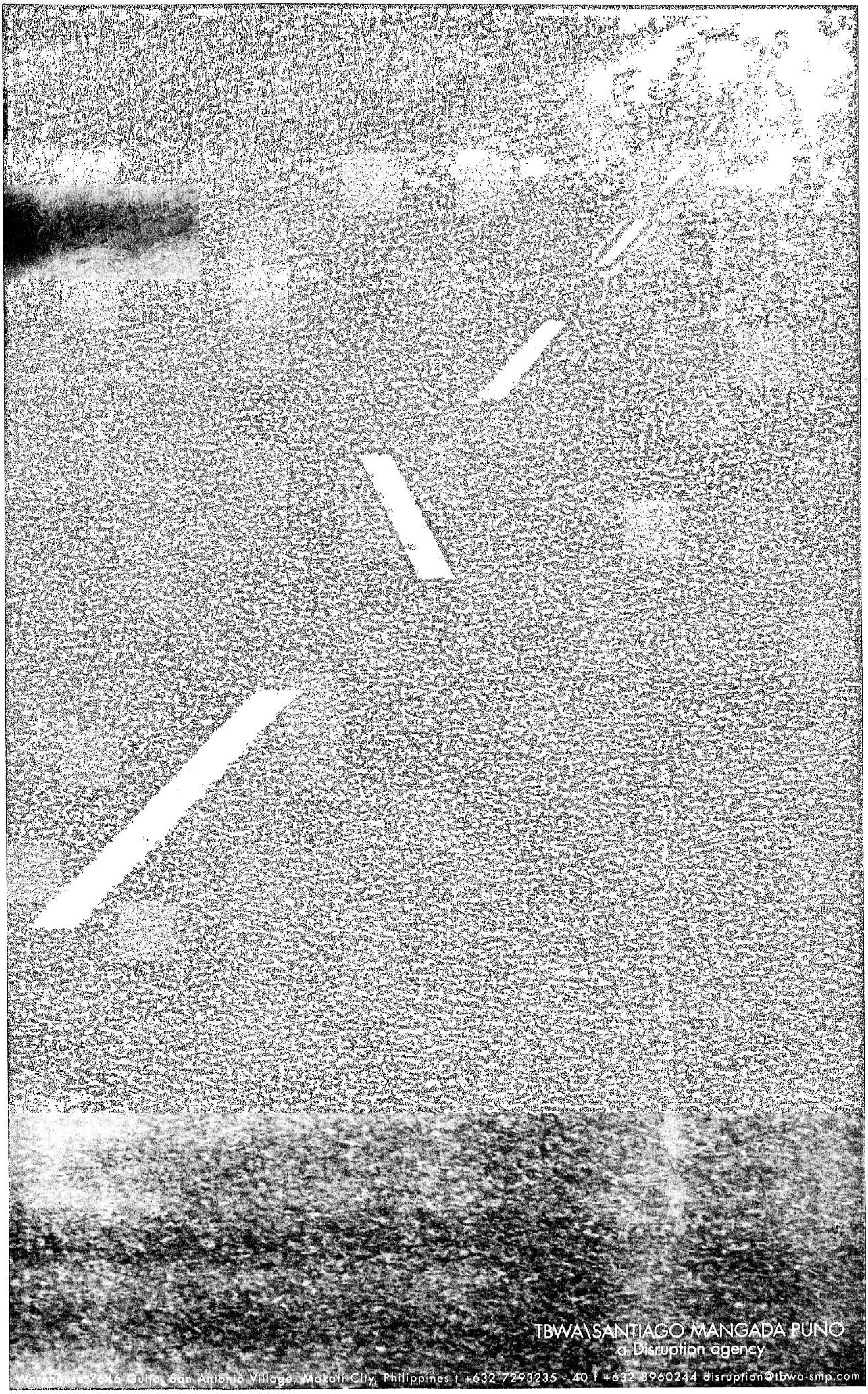

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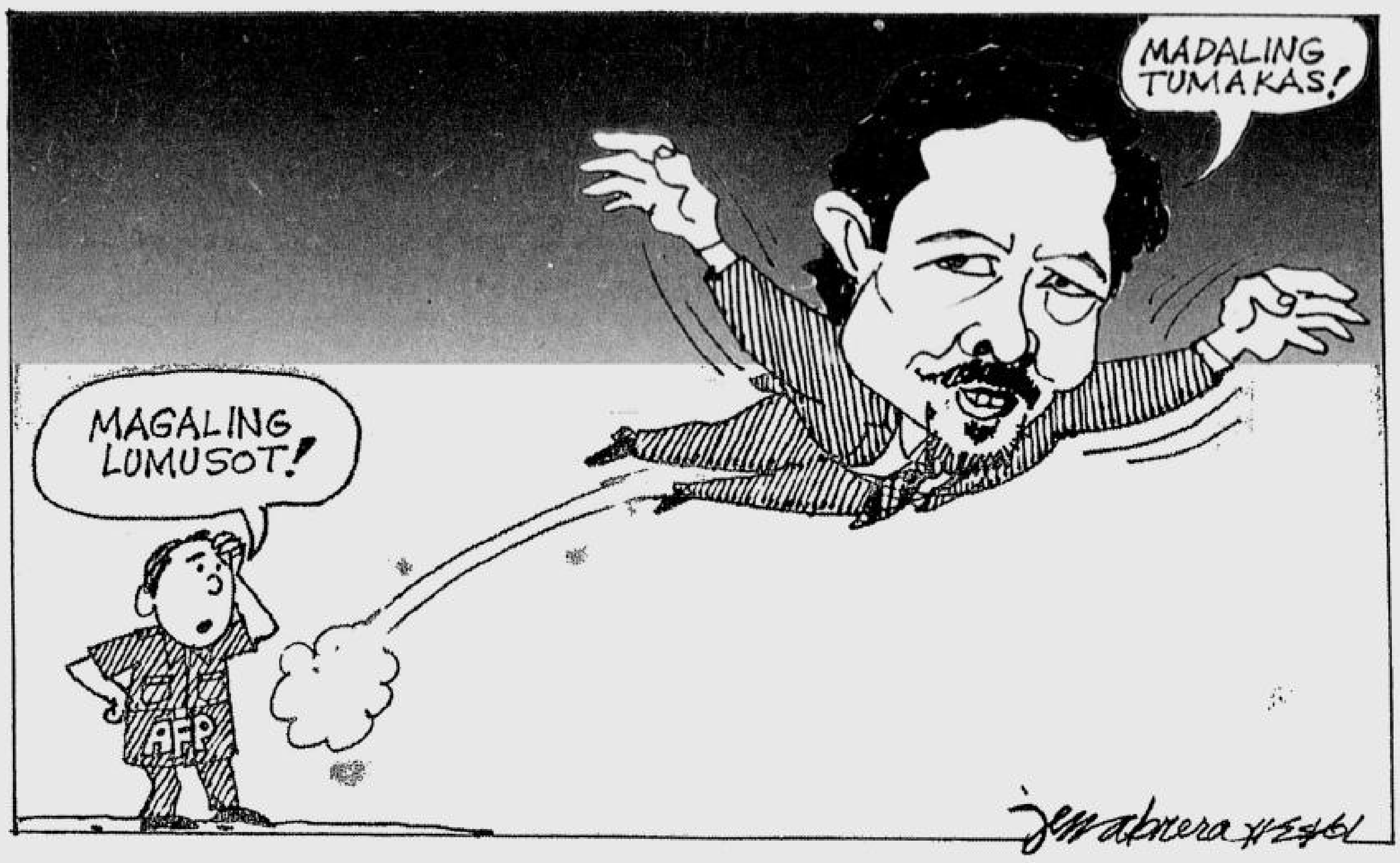
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Balancing act

EDITORIAL

THE CHANGE in the nature of warfare following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and the Philippines' staunch support of the US-led international coalition fighting terrorism have required the alteration of the terms of RP-US military cooperation arrangements. These arrangements are embodied in the 1998 Visiting Forces Agreement which, in turn, is based on the framework of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty.

During President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's working visit to the United States last week, negotiations were under way to hammer out a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement that will define the new arrangements. The negotiations, from which certain key issues have emerged, had not been completed when she flew back to Manila. She, however, brought home $4.2 billion worth of military and economic aid to help the Philippines root out the terrorist Abu Sayyaf, which has links to Osama bin Laden, and to strengthen the Philippine economy.

These negotiations sprang from the fact that in the US-led military action in Afghanistan, Washington has asked the Philippines to widen the scope of facilities in this country that the United States could use to facilitate the movement of its logistics and troops destined for action in Afghanistan.

Two sensitive issues have developed. The first is the US proposal to exempt nuclear-powered vessels from the MLSA but the Department of Justice believes that it would be better to retain in the MLSA the provision (proposed by Manila) which prohibits the "introduction into, storage in, or projection from Philippine territory of nuclear weapons" as provided in the Constitution. This issue is non-negotiable, although a way has been found around it through the US policy of neither confirming nor denying that its warships entering the country carry nuclear weapons.

The other contentious issue stems from a US proposal to secure logistic "support and services" in the Philippines to include "billeting, transportation (including airlift), communications services, medical services, base operations support (and construction incident to base operations support), storage services, use of facilities, training services, repair and maintenance services...and port services."

The justice department has objected to the wide scope of the definition because "it would authorize US military presence in the country, whether permanent or temporary," which is not allowed by the Constitution. These two issues are certain to reawaken strong nationalist objections nourished by the termination by the Senate in 1992 of the US military bases agreement.

The Macapagal administration would pay a heavy political cost if it allows these provisions to be incorporated in the MLSA. The clause "construction incident to base operations support" is unclear on what kind of structures will be built and how long they would be used as facilities for logistic "support and services." This ambiguity is the basis of the anxiety that it would in effect bring back the bases.

It is best for Philippine negotiators to clarify with the Americans the duration of such structural facilities and to secure iron-clad assurances that they won't become permanent structures. In strategic terms, however, the concept of fixed bases is no longer in vogue and they are, in fact, no longer necessary in the regional or global conflict. The air strikes on Afghanistan were carried out by flexible platforms—aircraft carriers—supported, however, by overflight rights, and use of port and aircraft facilities in countries like Pakistan or even the Philippines.

Since the Philippines has pledged support for the war on terrorism, within the framework of the United Nations resolutions, President Macapagal's policy of giving access to US forces to use Philippine ports and the former US bases as transit points for military action in Afghanistan was only its logical extension. But the MLSA expands the scope of access beyond mere joint military exercises envisaged in the VFA. The mode of warfare has changed, requiring more flexibility in the military cooperation arrangements. Our negotiators' task is to strike a balance between flexibility to allow a successful prosecution of the war, against terrorists in this instance, and blocking the de facto return to long-term basing facilities.

Reaffirming a valued friendship

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LIKE many of our people, I'm elated over the report that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is bringing home from the United States no less than $4.6 billion, "and still counting," in economic and military aid to our country.

The bounty is in recognition of the instant pledge of cooperation our government made to the United States in its fight against terrorism. The Philippines was the first Asian country to express such a commitment soon after the Sept. 11 attacks by terrorists in New York and Washington. Terrorism is an international crime condemned by the United Nations, of which our country is a founding member. We were being true to its purposes in supporting the American stand.

US President George W. Bush also offered military aid to suppress the Abu Sayyaf, but our President politely declined, saying we could deal with the problem ourselves in our own way. As well-meaning as the offer was, its acceptance would have subjected our government to criticism from our own nationalists wary of the impairment of our sovereignty by foreign intervention.

Washington's generosity is not part of a quid pro quo but a manifestation of its appreciation for President Macapagal's immediate expressions of sympathy over the victims of the terrorist tragedy. Her assurance of our country's unequivocal support for the determined efforts of the United States to stamp out terrorism all over the world was a valuable psychological boost to the morality of that resolve.

Interestingly, many other countries are lining up for Washington's generosity in exchange for some concession they are prepared to offer, like the use of their territories for the operations of the US armed forces. The principal beneficiary is Pakistan, which is receiving the lion's share of such goodwill for its indispensable role in the hunt for Osama bin Laden and the destruction of the Taliban.

It is significant that the Philippines has not demanded similar reciprocal arrangements. President Macapagal assured the United States of our support immediately, spontaneously and unconditionally. There were absolutely no strings attached to her declaration. She did not say, like other countries, that our government would side with the United States provided it gave us this or that benefit in exchange for our cooperation.

There is no question that the attacks against the Twin Towers and the Pentagon were heinous offenses that deserve the condemnation of the civilized world. Thousands of innocent lives were lost in that unspeakable massacre. Even in war, noncombatants are spared from direct attack although they may suffer collateral damage and inconvenience as a result of the belligerent maneuvers.

In New York and Washington on that tragic day of Sept. 11, the main targets of the terrorists were, precisely and intentionally, the civilians. The terrorist attacks were aimed not against the military forces of the United States but the unarmed men and women who were going about their usual activities on that apparently ordinary day. They did not even know there was a war when they routinely went to work that morning, which was to be their last on earth.

I daresay that our President would have reacted as she did even if some other country, and not the United States, had been the victim of the terrorists. In siding with the United States, President Macapagal was actually allying our country *against* the terrorists, regardless of their victims.

If the tragedy had occurred in Spain or Guatemala or China, the Philippines would have similarly reacted. Our government would have been quick to offer its sympathies to the victims and readily aligned itself with whatever country had been targeted by the terrorists. Our immediate offer to cooperate with the United States would have been no less unqualified if made to Russia or Vietnam or Ethiopia as the victim of the inhumane holocaust.

Political ideology would have been irrelevant. In siding with the United States, we were joining the rest of the civilized world in denouncing and fighting terrorism. The terrorist perfidy of aiming their weapons against the innocent and defenseless civilians of *any* country cannot be justified under any circumstance. The scornful argument that the civilians were Americans is unacceptable. Political martyrdom or religious fanaticism is no excuse either.

The macabre deed would have been no less condemnable if committed in Saudi Arabia or Egypt or, conceivably, even Iraq. The civilian victims would have been no less innocent and defenseless. Whatever their nationality, they would have been as meek and unresisting as lambs being led to the slaughter.

It would be unfair to say that President Macapagal went to the United States with a begging bowl like other foreign leaders taking advantage of the present situation to get their share of American generosity. She had gone there on invitation of the American government. She graciously accepted the thanks of President Bush and was presumably asked how the United States could help our country. Of course, she did not say we needed no help.

We are not supposed to look a gift horse in the mouth, but it's one thing to make an offer of assistance and another to make good on that offer. We have often been seduced by promises that were somehow soon forgotten. Let's hope that President Bush's commitment is straight from the heart and that its implementation will begin a new era of affection and understanding between our two countries.

Now is as good a time as any to smooth those differences that over the years have strained the relations between the Philippines and the United States. Maybe we can start all over again to show that we are, indeed, genuine friends and, in the fight against terrorism whatever its political color, true and steadfast allies.

Who was the mastermind?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT'S been more than two weeks since the murder of screen and TV great Nida Blanca, but the print and broadcast media are still having a field day. The confession of Philip Medel Jr. that he killed the actress in fact increased the public appetite for information rather than appeased it—mainly because it raises more questions than it answers. And now his volte-face has made for even more frenzy.

I confess to more than a passing interest in the case, mainly because Blanca was one of my favorites. She not only had a pretty face, she had talent to match. And her smile could light up the sky. If there was a royalty in movies and television, Blanca was definitely a queen.

So I have been following the case as closely as the most avid member of any of the Nida Blanca fan clubs around the Philippines.

And it is getting curiouser and curiouser.

It never occurred to me that Medel's confession was forced on him, his present claims notwithstanding. My reasons, not necessarily in the order of their importance:

One, it was written in his own hand, which means that his torturers must have stood over him and dictated it to him. Wouldn't it have been easier for them to have made him sign a typed confession?

Two, Medel certainly didn't look like he was under any duress when he was giving out interviews after his presentation to the media. In fact, he looked like he was positively enjoying the attention as he recounted how he was stricken with remorse after finding out (after two days, even) that his victim was Blanca.

Three, the PGH doctor, Dr. Tan, who examined him on Nov. 21, has stated that she found no evidence of torture (such as hematoma), and that Medel could move his extremities freely. The only bruises or hematoma he had was from his handcuffs. I cannot imagine a PGH doctor being coerced by the Philippine National Police to give false testimony.

Four, there is also the fact that there is a lot of physical evidence (the print of his shoe in the back of the driver's seat of the car, the murder weapon and his shirt with traces of her blood allegedly found in his apartment) that would support his original story about how he killed Blanca, unless of course, they were all planted.

That Medel has been cavalier with the truth can be seen from the story of his landlady, Norma Sideco, another person like the PGH doctor who has no axe to grind. Sideco says that it was Medel who told her, some time between 8 and 9 in the morning of Nov. 7 that Blanca had been found with stab wounds in her back. I don't know whether the news had already come out at that time, but Sideco's story certainly belies his statement that he did not know that it was Blanca he had killed until two days later (which was when his conscience began bothering him).

There is also the detail (the devil is in the details) that he and Rod Strunk had eaten at the Kamayan Restaurant, where he ordered barbecue and beer, and left the place at 10:30 p.m. This time it was the Kamayan manager who belied Medel's story: the restaurant closes at 9:30, and there is no order of barbecue and beer among the receipts issued by the restaurant. .

So I still think that Medel was telling the truth the first time around about killing Blanca, and lying about his being tortured into confessing to the crime.

It is also obvious, that he also lied about Strunk being the mastermind. His tale about Blanca's use of gutter language is also highly suspect.

Of course, it could be that Medel is a psychiatric case, and that the physical evidence against him was planted by people who were taking advantage of his condition. But I'm glad he has apologized to Strunk for implicating him as the mastermind, even if his story would never have held up anyway: Strunk just didn't have any motive to kill Blanca (he would in no way benefit—and would even be financially disadvantaged—by her death, since she seemed to be his main source of financial support).

Who comes out very poorly here are the police officers who seem to have accepted Medel's story hook line and sinker, in spite of all its obvious inconsistencies. And made very free with Strunk's shortcomings: his history of drug dependence, his unemployment, his divorce, even his supposed drunkenness and wife battering. They had a field day.

They can still redeem themselves. If Medel is not a psychiatric case, the question still remains: Who ordered Blanca's killing? That's what the police should determine.

And of course, this time they better concentrate on those who would benefit from Blanca's death. Unfortunately, it seems, that this will now be connected with the accounts Blanca was holding for her friend Nenita Vidal (Bong Erana), who reportedly had endorsed them to her when she (Vidal) learned she was dying of cancer.

Here we are talking about loans to gamblers who want immediate money while in the casino and are willing to give up almost anything for it. And when we talk about gambling and gambling loans, the story can get very ugly indeed—because now we're talking, possibly, about shady characters who might want to get titles back, and, heaven forbid, even military personnel, in active duty or retired, who are in the same business.

The police better get to work. And this time, it is hoped that they know enough not to count their chickens before they are hatched.

GMA wows Hispanic audience with speech

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MEXICO CITY—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, dressed in a grey two-piece suit with a military touch and a strand of pearls, appeared taller than her actual height when she took center stage at the Christian Democrat International's (CDI) annual conference in this city last Wednesday, to deliver the first address during the plenary session. She arrived at the Mexican capital with a power-house delegation led by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia at 3 that morning and, after a few hours' rest, met with several Mexican business groups, before lunching with fellow CDI heads of state from various countries. By 5:30 p.m. she left for the United States again, to catch her PAL flight to Manila.

* * *

Macapagal's stay in Mexico was all too brief, but it was enough to capture the attention of the CDI's 850 delegates and the local press. She was frequently the focus of the TV cameras and landed in most print media. One reason was that she was the only woman and Asian speaker, and Latinos, as Ambassador to Buenos Aires Carlos Villa-Abrille likes to say, like good-looking ladies, especially Asians. Then, too, Ms Macapagal delivered her speech entirely in Spanish. To this columnist, the Pinoy's versatility in languages was in full display. Delivering a serious speech in English is difficult enough, but to discourse in the Castilian language on a teleprompter before high-caliber delegates, three-fourths of whom were from Spain and the Spanish-speaking countries of the Americas, was simply gutsy. But this enabled her to speak straight to the delegates, and she looked very confident. The Pinoys felt proud of her.

* * *

Her speech proved to be a hit. In the state-visit handbook prepared by the Office of the President, one of the "Do's and Don'ts" for the visit to the United Mexican States was: "Do try to speak Spanish as your effort will be appreciated greatly by both government officials and ordinary citizens." Ms Macapagal took that seriously, and the CDI delegates applauded her a number of times and gave her a standing ovation as she left for the airport afterwards. Some delegates seated near the RP group marveled at the way she spoke Spanish. We explained that she learned the tongue from her mother and that her husband's family spoke it.

* * *

As she spoke, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo hung on to her every word, and when she finished, he smiled with relief and beamed with pride. Afterwards, as he rose to join his wife in catching their flight back to the United States, I asked Mike whether he had coached her. "Only a little bit," he said. I learned that the late Sen. Raul Manglapus' longtime aide, Manuel Pellicer Peña, wrote the original draft, but it was Ambassador George Reyes, who will be posted to Buenos Aires early next year, who hammered out the final one.

The speech was well-received not just for its delivery but also its contents. A lady delegate from Italy, a former CDI vice president, told us during Mexican President Vicente Fox's reception later that evening that some of the delegates thought Ms Macapagal's speech had the most substance, even though the other Hispanic speakers, such as Spain's Aznar, the newly elected CDI president, had more bombast. Some Filipino delegates, however, were disappointed that her speech contained very little about her thoughts on the Christian humanism of the CDI.

* * *

Ms Macapagal's appearance before CDI delegates from Europe, the Americas and Africa, coming after her recent US tour, is considered by Lakas people to have completed her debut on the world stage. For the CDI, founded in 1961 on the principles of "Christian humanism," represents close to 100 political parties from some 72 countries in five continents. A number of them are presently in power or wield great influence in their countries. One is the host country, Mexico, where the CDI-affiliated Partido Action Nacional (PAN) has succeeded in installing President Fox after seven straight decades of rule by the Partido Revolutionario International (PRI). The CDI parties are also in power in Spain, Hungary, Norway, Italy and Colombia, among others.

* * *

In her speech, Ms Macapagal sought to first establish the Philippines' link to the Americas, with over 200 years of the Galleon Trade between Acapulco and Manila and the over 3,000 Spanish words incorporated into Filipino. She also recalled the steps her 10-month-old administration has taken by way of reforms, including the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Act. Ms Macapagal's mention of this new law, which she acknowledged in various US forums to be the fruit of the joint efforts of Senate President Franklin Drilon and Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, was doubtless aimed at the Europeans, since developed nations making up the Paris-based International Financial Task Force had been applying tremendous pressure on the Philippines to put a stop to money laundering.

Ms Macapagal also repeated before the rich nations represented in the CDI the appeal she earlier made at the United Nation and among US officials that the rich nations must help the poor countries solve the poverty in their midst.

* * *

But perhaps the most important part of her address was her appeal for CDI support for the Philippine-sponsored resolution asking for an earnest global dialogue between Christians and Muslims, in the light of the recent terrorist attacks in order to help isolate the extremists. Ms Macapagal stressed that her party, Lakas, has a vital Muslim component. She also paid tribute to Speaker De Venecia, who had been pushing this idea in various international forums even before Sept. 11, in the light of various conflicts involving Christians and Muslims, beginning with Mindanao. In response to US President Bush's appeal for action against international terrorists after Sept. 11, De Venecia recommended to President Macapagal and the National Security Council that the Philippines take the lead in persuading Malaysia and Indonesia, our neighbors with big Muslim populations, to form a regional coalition against terrorism.

At the conference the Speaker, who is a vice president of the organization, proposed that all CDI members seek a broadening of Muslim-Christian dialogue worldwide. He recruited Argentina as co-sponsor, arguing that it was best equipped to do so, since its former president, Carlos Menem, is a Lebanese émigré who converted from Islam to Christianity. De Venecia felt quite elated that in the Mexico declaration drawn up at the conference's conclusion, his proposal for continuing dialogue between Christians and Muslims was adopted.

Melodrama and more

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT could yet become a longer-running soap opera than "Pangako sa Iyo" or "Betty La Fea," its plot more convoluted, populated by more complex characters, and filled with more sudden twists and hairpin turns than even the most imaginative scriptwriter could conjure. I'm writing, of course, about what the media have now come to call the "Nida Blanca Murder Case."

"This is material for the tabloids! For Hollywood and Crime!" I exclaimed to a friend recently. "Honey, this is for Vanity Fair," he drawled.

In the beginning, it had all the elements of drama: a victim who was not only famous but beloved by the public as well, a heinous crime, a crucial 12-hour gap during which the victim's whereabouts are unknown, witnesses placing the victim in various spots around the city, a "self-confessed hired killer," and now a red-faced law enforcement establishment who've seen their "scoop" crumble before their eyes.

Admittedly, it's hard to take Jun Medel's outburst at the offices of the Department of Justice seriously. He seemed to be striving too much for effect, in such sharp contrast to his cool demeanor when he was first presented to the public, with police generals and Cabinet secretaries preening before the cameras.

What the tantrum reminded me most sharply of, in fact, was a similar outburst by Medel's wife when interviewed by TV crews in Cebu. While Medel's mother tried vainly to talk on her recollections about her son, the wife was wailing in the background, collapsing in the arms of concerned relatives. This is one histrionic couple, indeed. I wonder what their quarrels were like!

No matter the comical aspects of his turnaround, Medel's allegations must still be dealt with seriously. In other countries, his revelations would have touched off a major scandal and the sacking of the police leadership, especially his handlers. But here, this sort of thing happens so often, it's become routine. So much so that even ordinary folk said they hoped Medel's not some "fall guy" the police trotted out just to bring the pressure off them. I mean, how would a market vendor even know about "fall guys" if she hadn't heard of them so often before?

* * *

MEDEL'S outburst should also serve as a lesson to law enforcers on dealing with the media especially in such a sensational, sensitive case as Nida Blanca's murder.

I shouldn't be saying this, being a media person myself, but really, the media have been given much too much leeway in the course of the investigation. Even the tiniest leads are leaked and scrutinized, and everybody and his brother, but especially the police, makes no bones about airing theories, assumptions, suspicions and speculations. The media have been blamed, most recently by a triumphant Rod Strunk, for sensationalizing aspects of the case. But the media would have nothing to speculate on and sensationalize if police had kept mum, especially since evidence was still being analyzed.

But the media, too, seemed to want to compete with investigators in getting to the bottom of the case. One TV network found a cigarette vendor who claimed to witness money being exchanged allegedly as a payoff for the killing of Blanca, and brought her to the main investigator for interview—on cam. A day later, a rival network came up with its own witness, yet another bystander and cigarette vendor, whom authorities described as credible because his testimony "matched" that of the other witness.

Of course, the testimony matched. He saw the testimony on TV, didn't he?

And so when Medel pulled the stunt at the preliminary hearing, ranting about being tortured and coerced into a confession, he was able to do so in the full glare of TV cameras and radio microphones. Serves them right.

* * *

TWICE she tried to escape. The first time she was about to give birth, thinking her trip to Manila for a hospital stay would allow her to escape from a husband she accused of having abused her for years.

But while at the hospital where she had just given birth, her husband, then a provincial official, came to fetch her with a small army of armed bodyguards, and not even the interior secretary could lift a finger to help her. Later, she would give interviews denouncing the women's group that had sought to rescue her, saying they had done so just to gain publicity.

Years later, Maria Theresa Carlson would once more go public with her tales of suffering at the hands of her husband. Asked by a broadcaster "on a scale of one to 10, rate the abuse you suffered from your husband," Carlson replied stonily: "Eleven."

The reason she sought help once more, she implied, was that his abuse had gone out of hand, affecting not just her but even a daughter. These charges her powerful and influential husband dismissed outright, claiming Carlson had lost all sense of reality.

Well, third time out and "lucky." Early yesterday morning, her mangled and broken body was found on the pavement outside a condominium building in Greenhills, San Juan. Police ruled it a suicide, saying she had leaped to her death from her unit on the 23rd floor.

If only for the fervent hope that by this time Carlson's restless, pained spirit would have found peace, let's pray the police pronouncement is the end of the story. But certain irregularities in the investigation seem to indicate there's more to this than the suicide of an extremely unhappy woman. Is there any reason to trust that in the middle of the Nida Blanca investigation, Carlson will find a measure of justice?

Let's pray for her soul, then, and for the day when freedom for women trapped in abusive relationships will no longer mean leaving behind one's earthly existence, flying out a window to a future without pain or humiliation.

Manila in the time of cholera

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

NOT only were there no biological weapons in existence then, there wasn't even the germ of the idea since people were having enough problems coping with natural strains. Due to widespread cholera in India in 1818, the chief magistrate of Tondo, Rodriguez Varela, acting on the advice of doctors, issued a proclamation prescribing some rules on hygiene. One of these was not to drink water from the Pasig or from the open wells along its banks. The proclamation also advised against eating vegetables and fish that were not well cooked.

At the time there were living in Sta. Mesa some French and English collectors of natural species for major museums in European cities. For this purpose, birds were embalmed and reptiles preserved in vinegar. To the ignorant, collecting toads and snakes was very strange indeed, but the foreigners could not make their purposes understood. After hearing the proclamation of Señor Varela, it occurred to some people that the foreigners must be poisoning the waters of the Pasig as well as the wells on the banks of the river.

Fueled by such ominous and gloomy suppositions, most of the inhabitants of the right banks of the Pasig met at the plaza of Binondo and vowed to exterminate the strangers, especially the British. The mob, filled with blood lust, rampaged through the streets of Binondo, brutally killing any foreigner who fell into their hands. On Oct. 9, 1820 alone, 27 foreigners of both sexes were killed. (Was the mob egged on by certain individuals, capitalizing on their worst fears?)

The authorities finally rushed to protect the foreigners, and the following day the governor installed a battery of artillery at the plaza in front of Binondo Bridge, resulting in some calm. But the next day, the agitation continued. The mob even turned on the Chinese, killing and robbing them too.

In face of so much turmoil, Archbishop Zulaybar of Manila emerged from the church of Binondo carrying the Blessed Sacrament and pleaded for calm and peace with the inhabitants of the town who were thirsting for blood and blinded by fanaticism. No one paid the slightest heed to the prelate who retreated, weeping and worried that the mob would commit further mayhem. When the rioters finally stopped, it was due to sheer exhaustion.

An Augustinian observer, P. Hilarion, had no illusions of what could occur in the not too distant future because of the work of agitators. Apparently at the time, there was already active propaganda against both the Church and State. He predicted that the day would come when some people would denounce Spain and urged that a campaign be waged to win the hearts of those who were against the religious orders.

On March 26, 1821, Fray Hilarion issued a circular to his subjects. He predicted that the day would come when they would see themselves humiliated and humbled like the tribes of Israel in Babylon and they would be viewed as the scourge and undoing of the country, not worthy of being members of society. No doubt few of the friars believed him.

Cholera continued to swing its scythe throughout the century and even up to the time of the Americans. In 1882 an epidemic brought terrible sufferings to the city, especially to children who were orphaned. They became vagabonds, roaming the streets of Manila and its suburbs and relying only on the charity of strangers.

As a result, some ladies in Manila decided to establish an orphanage and requested the Augustinians for help. The father provincial, P. Bravo (as in Buzeta y Bravo) wrote to Gov. Primo de Rivera to explain the project and ask for an audience in Malacañang. In the meeting that followed, the spiritual director of the ladies, P. Salvador Font, explained the need for an orphanage, stressing that the orphaned children had no one to turn to. With everyone in agreement, a public subscription was initiated encompassing the whole country that raised P34,131.

The orphanage opened in Paco on Oct. 1, 1882. It was named Asilo de Ntra. Sra. De la Consolacion and had 38 orphans as wards. Its vice president was Mercedes Primo de Rivera, wife of the governor, and the members were Rosario Castañeda de Montojo, Manuela Perez de Heras, Luisa Sanz y Sanz, Juana G. de Saint Just de Gamir, Dolores de la Escosura (secretary), Trinidad Ayala de Zobel and Emilia T de Rocha.

The orphans underwent several vicissitudes. The building in Paco turned out to be temporary. At first, the boys remained there while the girls transferred to Mandaluyong and others were sent as far away as Caysasay in Taal together with the nuns.

On March 16, 1889, the Augustinians accepted the donation of some land and buildings in Longos (Malabon) by Doña Crisanta Tongco who set two conditions: that three novena Masses be offered for her intentions annually and that some space be left for her relatives who might be in need. On July 5, 1889, the father director approved the project of the Casa Asilo and construction of the building as designed by Juan Hervas began.

(Data from "Apuntes Historicos de la Provincia Agustiniana del Santisimo Nombre de Jesus de Filipinas," P. Bernardo Martinez, 1909)

Bedtime conversation

YOUNGBLOOD

Armina Velarde

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

A WOMAN and a man are in bed together.

Man: How many times have I told you that this bed is too small?

Woman: It's not the bed that's small.

Man: What does that mean? You've never had a problem about my weight before.

Woman: Well, you've never had a problem with beds before.

Man: You should consider yourself lucky. That thieving ex-president never even laid eyes on his wife's bed.

Woman: Which wife?

Man: The legitimate one, of course.

Woman: Of course, the dumb one.

Man: You're a sly one, aren't you? I make one little complaint and you retaliate with sarcasm, but always, always making yourself look like the victim.

Woman: Oh, were we talking about us? I'm sorry. I thought we were talking about dumb wives.

Man: Why don't you just say it? I'm an oaf and you're oh so great! Maybe you'd like me to address you as "Your Excellency"?

Silence

Man: What do you want from me?

Woman: Nothing

Man sits up in bed, his enormous back blocking the woman's dwarfish frame.

Man: I'm getting a sandwich.

Woman: And you say the bed's too small?

Man: Whose fault do you think that is? You were the one who fattened me up. I should have known better. Making me eat your cooking when all the while you had this grand plan of turning me into a pig so no other woman would want me.

Woman: Ha! You've always been paranoid.

Man (*sighing*): Sometimes I wish we never came back to this country. We were happy then.

Woman: You were happy then. With your servile little wife cooking, baking, slaving away to feed your insatiable hunger.

Man: Now you want to turn me into your servile little husband.

Woman: Oh, believe me I can probably do something about turning you into a servile husband, but the "little" part, well, I gave up on that a long time ago.

Man gets up from the bed.

Man: I'm sleeping in the guest house.

Woman: Oh, so you can give those blasted reporters something else to write about? As if all our problems weren't enough.

Man: I'm sick of this. Why don't you blame the press for this marriage as well? You've been doing such a good job blaming them for everything else. And what are you so afraid of anyway?

Woman: You can never be too careful. Everything gets written about these days. Some idiots may be listening to us this very minute. It's a good thing I have the sense to have the place swept of bugs five times a day. I would have never gotten this far if it weren't for my cautiousness. It's bad enough that I am married to a man who has no sense of discretion. Everyone's a critic, remember that.

Man: Do you want a sandwich?

Woman: Ugh, if I knew you'd turn out to be such a glutton I wouldn't have married you.

Man: Oh yeah? You even used to call me Dreamboat.

Woman: And a shipwreck you turned out to be!

Man: I can make any woman marry me.

Woman: Ha! You're worse than the ex-president; at least he didn't ask his harem to marry him.

Man: And you're worse than his wife. At least she knows when to shut her mouth.

Woman: Don't you ever compare me to her! My nose has never been touched by a scalpel!

Man and woman laugh.

Man: When did we start getting this bitter? We don't make love anymore.

Woman: You were the one who kept telling everyone how hugging and kissing are enough to make you happy.

Man: That's the point: we don't even hug and kiss anymore.

Woman: Stop this teddy bear act and go to bed, you big liar.

Man: I was only trying to make you look less frigid to the public.

Woman: Who are you calling frigid?

Man climbs back on the bed then leans back into the pillow and puts his arm on the woman's shoulder.

Man: Are you willing to prove you're not?

Woman (*sitting and freeing herself from the man's embrace*): I'm only frigid because you're not hot enough to thaw me. Now if you had a body like Georgie's...

Man gets up.

Man: I know you feel something for that bumbling president that's why you've done nothing but suck up to him. Well, you deserve each other. Neither of you won an election.

Woman: You're talking nonsense. I didn't know you were that hungry. Go ahead, help yourself to a heart attack.

Man: So you want to get rid of me, huh? You've got the hots for Mr. Dubyah, admit it. I remember when he called to congratulate you, you were blushing like a schoolgirl.

Woman: What do you have against him? He's a good, strong man. And at least he keeps himself lean and fit, unlike...

Man: He's a bumbling fool, that's all he is.

Woman: Don't you call him that, he's a hero. He reminds me of John Wayne. Ooh, I can just picture him holding a slick gun, wearing cowboy boots, all that leather, spurs digging into his stallion's hind, blasting all those Afghans away. It's about time he makes those ugly, hirsute terrorists pay!

Woman breaks into wild laughter. Man looks at woman, searches her face for signs of what he fears to be an imminent psychotic episode.

Man: Instead of playing the infatuated little poodle to that fool, why don't you start doing something about our problems?

Woman: You're the only one who seems to be causing the problems lately. I've washed enough dirty laundry.

Man: Well it seems you're not scrubbing hard enough.

Woman: It's the media's fault. The world would have been a much better place if Hitler decided to slaughter journalists instead of Jews. I should have planted a bullet on one of the photographers' head at the shooting range. That would have taught them a lesson.

Man: What about the ex-president and his relentless requests? Don't you think you should teach him a lesson as well?

Woman: I would very much like to see him board a plane.

Man: You'll allow him to go? You can't possibly believe he needs medical treatment. The apocryphal broken knee, cataract...he'd be more believable if he said he needed a brain transplant.

Woman: You're one to talk, but you're no genius, mister! You had the nerve to host a radio show when everyone knows you're as eloquent as a baboon.

Man: You really want to hog the spotlight, don't you? You love the fact that my radio show has been cancelled.

Woman: Your radio show offered nothing but silly drivel. And I feel no grief about its long-overdue death. Now that I have my own radio show, I can charm the masses with my no-nonsense sensibility and, ahem, my soothing voice.

Man: You're kidding me. You sound like a parakeet. Your voice makes me wish I were born deaf.

Woman takes out a gun from her bedside drawer and aims it at the man.

Woman: You take that back or I'll blow your brains out!

Man: I take it back. I'm sorry.

Woman: You have good reason to be sorry.

Man: I promise I won't make fun of your voice again if you promise you won't make fun of mine.

Drawn-out silence.

Man: So you'll really let him fly out of the country, huh?

Woman: Yes, I'll let him fly to Afghanistan.

Man and woman laugh.

Man: Ooh, you're wicked, and you know that turns me on.

Man starts kissing the woman.

Man: Let's get it on.

Woman gets out of bed, walks away and reaches for the door.

Woman: I'm sleeping in the guest house.

Man: Frigid cow.

Woman: Spineless pig.

Armina Velarde, 24, is BA English Studies graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She describes herself as a wicked woman who has difficulty telling fact from fiction.

US must do the right thing in Clark, Subic

U.S.
CONCENT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH
FEDERAL SPECIFICATION
CAUTION: FOR READY USE
DO NOT STORE
DO NOT MIX

I AM a licensed geologist in North and South Carolina and I have worked extensively in the field of environmental justice. I am also a relative of Maj. Harold M. Clark, the World War I US Army Air Corps flyer for whom Clark Airbase was named.

Other family members and I were dismayed to hear about the environmental catastrophe that has befallen the Filipino people as a result of toxic waste left on the base. There have been at least 80 deaths resulting from drinking contaminated water at the former Clark motorpool at the Cabcom evacuation site. Twenty thousand families were evacuated to the Cabcom site after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and lived there an average of two to five years.

There are similar environmental problems at Subic as well as the other former US bases in the Philippines.

In our country, we have the Cercla which defines a superfund site and makes the responsible party contribute its fair share toward cleaning it up. In the case of military installations, the sole responsible party is the US government. But our government even refused to pay for a site assessment of Clark, so the Philippine government had to go to the World Bank for a loan.

We have been asking, "Why do they hate us?" It may be because smaller nations view us as hypocrites who apply different standards in different parts of the world.

The Book of James tells us to be a "respecter of persons." This applies to nations as well as individuals. It is time that we, as the world's only remaining superpower, did the right thing in the world, especially with regard to developing nations such as the Philippines.

Our relationship with the Philippines goes back over 100 years. During most of the last century, Filipinos have been a staunch ally, although sometimes they feel like they are being taken for granted.

The Philippine President has paid the United States a visit. We hope she was able to raise this critically important environmental issue with US officials.

We are well aware that there are other pressing issues on President George W. Bush's table at this time and we are behind him 100 percent in the campaign against terrorism. We especially admired him for walking out, alone, to the pitcher's mound at the Yankee Stadium and throwing out the first pitch during the World Series on Oct. 30. It gave us all hope that our system still works.—**ALLEN S. HUBBARD, 2607 Toddville Road., Charlotte, NC 28214**

LETTERS

Things we can do to lick garbage problem

JOY Lim-Abbu in a letter published recently, mentioned some possible solutions to the garbage problem. In addition to what she wrote, I think that we have to push for legislation to ensure that future subdivisions allocate a portion of their land as sites for segregation and composting. Some have already taken the initiative and started on their own.

We can require towns to develop their own waste management system before they are granted cityhood.

Congressional development funds can also be used to buy land in every district for segregation and composting.

City wet markets should be encouraged to put up their own compost area and bring their garbage directly to that area.

Some large fast-food companies serve their meals in disposable packages with disposable utensils even if the customer eats at their outlets. They should study how they can segregate and recycle these items. If these utensils are being dumped with the rest of their garbage, our officials should consider regulating the use of such disposable items.

I believe that we will be able to adapt. As long as eco-friendly detergents are used, the sun will recycle water more efficiently than we can recycle paper and plastic.

We have to consider also the packages used to wrap sandwiches. We can use square or triangular pouches. It should be understood that disposable packages will be used for "take-outs."

Since the government is short of funds to solve the garbage problem, it might consider putting a levy on the packages used. The amount of levy can be based on the size of the package.

Abbu's recommendation to recycle plastic bags and use *bayong* when shopping even in malls is not new. It was proposed in the past although I can't remember if incentives were offered. It may have failed then but the situation now is far different and so it might succeed this time.

Dumps are extremely short-term solutions since it is only a matter of time before they are filled. Our garbage problem is of crisis proportions. Trash litter the streets on which we walk and pollute the water we drink. The problem didn't happen overnight. It will not solve itself, and it may outlive us unless we do something about it.

The solution won't be easy and it won't be immediate. It will require education, change of habits, discipline and even legislation. We don't know if the solutions will work or create a bigger mess but what is definite is that we must do something now.—**JOSE MARINO V. LABRADOR, 1413 Batangas St., Sta. Cruz, Manila**

GMA snubbing peace award

AS the national chancellor of the International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP), Philippine Chapter, I have been given the difficult task of communicating with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The IAEWP is an organization of some 100 member-nations with individual chapters whose members are professional educators espousing the concept of peace through education. Every four years, the association holds an international congress to discuss current world issues. The Philippines is privileged and honored to be the host country for the 12th World Peace Congress of the IAEWP scheduled on April 19 to 21, 2002.

The association has deemed it appropriate to honor the Filipino nation with the International Peace Award and the Albert Einstein Peace Award because of our peaceful manner of settling political and national differences, specifically through Edsa I and II.

Dr. Charles Mercieca, international president of the IAEWP, who was here earlier this month, has suggested that President Macapagal accept these awards on behalf of the Filipino people. But I have had a very difficult time getting an appointment with the President in view of her hectic schedule. It is quite embarrassing for us that these prestigious awards, which had been given earlier to such world leaders as Pope John Paul II and former Polish President Lech Walesa, is being snubbed in such fashion. And yet the President seems to find time to meet with pop idols and movie celebrities.

What is stopping her from setting aside even just five minutes to accept this honor? Is it the lack of media mileage to be gained from such an activity? Is she too busy trying to entice investors to give our country another look? Doesn't she believe that to be recognized as a peace loving people would enhance our international stature and, therefore, attract business interest and investments?

We are not asking the President to personally attend to this matter. But she owes it to peace-loving Filipinos to accept this honor on their behalf.—**DR. JOSEF DE UBALDO, DSc., national chancellor, International Association of Educators for World Peace, Philippine Chapter**

A call for restraint in media reporting

IN HIS column, "Please don't buy this sorcery from the DILG," last Nov. 21, Recah Trinidad said that "Secretary Jose Lina claimed that kidnappings would be prevented if media would only practice self-restraint in reporting kidnapping stories."

Perhaps, he was referring to the statement I made in Iloilo City last week which was actually an appeal to media to exercise self-restraint in reporting kidnapping cases.

I am not saying that media should not report kidnapping incidents. I strongly adhere to the people's right to information. However, there are stages in the operation or investigation of kidnapping cases that media should refrain from reporting if only to ensure the safety not only of the victim but his or her family.

The self-restraint measure, which he described as "sorcery," is part of the 12-point comprehensive plan of action of the National Peace and Order Council (NPOC) adopted in 1994. The plan of action is a holistic approach to effectively address the problem of kidnapping with the active participation of all sectors of society, including the media. As I have said on many occasions, the fight against kidnapping, and all forms of criminality for that matter, is not the sole responsibility of the police, but everybody's concern.

The NPOC resolution seeks to enlist the support of media in ensuring the safety of kidnap victims by avoiding premature release of information about anti-kidnapping operations.

The fact is, premature release of information often has adverse effects. For instance, the victim's family refuses to cooperate with the police thus, jeopardizing the operation.

I know that Trinidad's opinion was based on an earlier news story in your paper, titled "Lina blames media for kidnaps." Let me clarify that I did not categorically say I blame the media for the rise in kidnap-for-ransom cases. The news report was based on a brief interview in Iloilo City where I was asked to comment on the PCCI statement blaming the media for the rise of kidnapping incidents.—**JOSE D. LINA JR., secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Francisco Gold Condominium, Edsa cor. Mapagmahal Street, Diliman, Quezon City**

Students can help change society

IT is really depressing to read the newspapers these days when the news you get are about the rising unemployment, the falling peso and the economy's continuing slide. But as a student and aspiring professional, who will soon be a member of the country's labor force, I refuse to accept that this is all I am going to get. I know that for every problem, there is a solution. And I urge my fellow students to take the same stance: "*May magagawa pa tayo!*"

For instance, instead of blaming the government for not being able to allocate so much money to education, why don't we think of ways of helping the government raise money and increase its budget for education? We can be vigilant watchdogs of how our taxes are being collected and how public funds are being spent.

Let's practice good citizenship and urge our parents to pay the right taxes. After all, we are the government. The weaknesses of our government reflect our weaknesses as citizens.

There are many other things that could be done by us students to stop the bleeding. Our future is at stake.

We have to start somewhere. Otherwise, we will remain stuck in the problems that we read about in the newspapers every day. I think that taking that crucial step to denounce corruption is the way to go. At the same time, we must examine ourselves and see if we are performing our duties as citizens.

Maybe, your parents or relatives are government employees who you know to be committing acts of corruption. *Magsasawalang kibo ka na lang ba?* —**SHERRY ROSE SANDIG, St. Louise School, Solano, Nueva**

Analyzing Pakistan's Musharraf

RUDY Sawyer, whose letter was published last Nov. 17, read more than what was intended in my Oct. 31 commentary, "Pakistan's Musharraf: Moderator of war vs. terror."

The views I expressed in that commentary pertain to the attitude and actions of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf at a time (early October 2001) when other members of the global alliance had second thoughts about the US decision on Afghanistan. The urgency, despondency and anger of the United States were understood by Pakistan's leaders although they had their own problems with political instability. Musharraf tried his best to balance the contending forces though his best may not be good enough for everyone. For sure, Islamabad has become a world-class capital in this respect, serving as a common base for the parties to air their views and positions. But one can surmise that if there were more foot-dragging by the Pakistani government, this could have affected drastically US operations, with untold consequences.

Musharraf, though, could have been more effective in negotiating with the Taliban leadership for the surrender of Osama bin Laden and other members of al-Qaida. But Taliban rule, which is said to have its beginnings in US support during the '80s, is an issue in itself and is the one to have "fallen" as a result of US attacks.

The latest reports say Pakistan has cut ties with the Taliban but it still hosts its ambassador. We are not privy to the behind-the-scenes maneuvers. As one CNN report on the Pakistani leader put it, the events in Afghanistan reveal what kind of leader Musharraf is becoming. So with all the leaders of the global alliance—Bush, Blair, Schroeder and even Macapagal. But Bin Laden remains, in the judgment of the global alliance, right or wrong, the prime catalyst of these events. History and scholarship can only judge as evidence continues to unravel and get scrutinized.—**NATALIA M.L.M. MORALES, Faculty Center 3166, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

Koizumi's reforms face rough sailing

NEWS ANALYSIS

Linda Sieg

TOKYO—A grueling cycle of conflict and compromise looks certain to play out as Japan's maverick prime minister pushes his agenda for reform in the face of staunch opposition in his own ruling party.

The most likely outcome appears to be a progress of sorts, since maintaining Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's reformist reputation is, ultimately, in the interest of both the premier and his long-dominant Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) Old Guard.

But a showdown in which Koizumi risks splitting the LDP can't be ruled out, since the maverick leader's political power rests almost solely on his popularity, backed by promises of reform.

"This guy has a lot of courage. He'll break up the LDP before he goes down in defeat," said Gerald Curtis, a political science professor at Columbia University.

But he added: "The (LDP) opposition are not dumbbells. They will calculate and calibrate what they need to give Koizumi, and what they need to give their own vested interests."

Koizumi sprang to power in April promising to root out the faction-ridden, vested-interest politics which have kept the LDP from adapting to a changing economic landscape, and to carry out painful but vital reforms to revive Japan's stagnant economy. Seven months later, critics have been complaining he has precious little to show by way of concrete results, and in particular has failed to make much progress on cleaning up the massive bad loan problem that is hobbling the nation's banks.

Others argue his stubborn stress on reining in government spending could send the economy, already plagued by record high unemployment and deflation, into a dangerous downward spiral—and drag his popularity down with it.

Koizumi's popularity ratings, while down a bit from historic highs of some 90 percent when he took office, are still sky-high. A survey last weekend by the conservative Yomiuri newspaper showed support for Koizumi's cabinet was at 76.2 percent, down just a sliver from 77.4 percent in October.

Squaring off against opposition party leaders in parliament last week, a feisty Koizumi reminded his own party why that mattered. "Those who are trying to change Koizumi are those who haven't realized that without Koizumi, the LDP is finished," he said.

Only Koizumi's unprecedented popularity saved the LDP from an anticipated drubbing in an election last July for parliament's Upper House, and the party would likely fare badly in any subsequent general election without him at the helm.

Koizumi won a much-needed victory this week in his battle to scrap or privatize the money-guzzling state corporations that have long provided cushy jobs for retired bureaucrats and funded pork-barrel projects for ruling politicians' constituencies.

Despite initial staunch opposition from LDP heavyweights, coalition leaders signed off on a plan to abolish or privatize seven state-run corporations. Included is a scheme to merge the Japan Public Highway Corp. with three other road-related bodies and later split them into more rational, privatized firms.

Government spending on rural roads and bridges has long won votes for the LDP, but also helped inflate Japan's public debt to the highest level among advanced nations.

Koizumi also managed, if only by some deft fiscal juggling, to keep his pledge to cap government bond issuance to 30 trillion yen ($243.5 billion) even as he yielded to pressure for a 2.5 trillion yen second extra budget to help the floundering economy.

More battles lie ahead.

Koizumi's panel of economic advisers must draft principles for the next fiscal year's budget by the end of November.

Gloomy data for gross domestic product for the June-September quarter, due out on Dec. 7, could well provide ammunition for politicians keen on finding excuses to fund more pork-barrel projects.

Few expect the Old Guard to abandon their efforts to gut Koizumi's reforms. "The mainstream opposition is preparing for a firestorm," said Takashi Kiuchi, an economic adviser to Shinsei Bank. "They see that he is strong, but they are also desperate."

Both Koizumi and his rivals would prefer to avoid a collision that could end in rupturing the party.

"If the LDP breaks up, that really kills the conservatives," said Chuo University political science professor Steven Reed. "If you're not in power, you can't play the pork-barrel game."

"One of the main scenarios is that they do enough (reform) so it doesn't look as if Koizumi failed, and as little as possible to keep the anti-reform forces happy," Reed added.

Koizumi, however, can yield only so far without damaging his prime political capital. "His only power in the party is his popularity and the only way to keep that up is to do reform," Reed said. "I don't think he has any choice."

Reuters

What happened to 10-percent raise in AFP retirees' pension?

IN BEHALF of all the pensioners of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I would like to inform the concerned government officials that we have not received the 10-percent differential which took effect last January 2000. This increase has not been reflected in our monthly pension check up to this writing, and it was granted almost two years ago.

What we have observed lately is that the government only looks after the officers and men who are still in active military service while the pensioners who have already served our country are being neglected. When we verify the status of our pension from the AFP Finance Center, they just tell us, "Sorry, no funds available."

I am now requesting for the release of the 10-percent differential in our pension and that the mandated increase be reflected on our monthly pension checks possibly before the coming Yuletide season.—**DOMINGO MEDALLA, 1740 Lakandula Drive, Daraga, Albay**

Three months to clear a US check?

LAST Oct. 23, for perhaps the fourth time in one month, my parents (both more than 60, and one with cancer and the other with a heart condition called CHF) had to take the bumpy 13-kilometer ride on a tricycle from the outskirts of Roxas City to go downtown and visit a small local branch of the Philippine National Bank (PNB). They went there to find out if they could withdraw the peso equivalent of two checks of $300 each I sent them earlier. They had deposited these checks a month apart, the first one in July and the second one in August.

Earlier, they were told by the branch manager and by the cashier that since the World Trade Center bombing on Sept. 11, the clearing time for international dollar checks had been extended to two months. I wonder if this same rule applies to other banks in the Philippines.

My parents need the money to buy food, clothing and medicine as well as to pay the rent. Unfortunately on Oct. 23, their hopes dimmed further when they were told that the clearing time had again been "extended" to three months because of the recent "anthrax scare " in the United States.

I find this explanation preposterous because here in the United States we see banners everywhere proclaiming "America is Business as Usual." The lead time for processing government and/or private business transactions are supposed to remain the same (even after the closure of the Senate building a few days ago).

Those two same checks have been cleared by my bank in the United States and in fact they appeared on my Aug. 20 statement. I have faxed a copy of the transaction record to the PNB manager.

Now, my old folks will have to wait another week or so for the money they so direly need. Hard-earned dollars sent by a son that both toiled for years to send to nursing school.

I cannot understand how this small branch of an otherwise reputable bank could deal with its customers so unprofessionally and even arbitrarily. Is the PNB management even aware of this practice?

When a bank accepts our money, it is not doing us a favor. On the contrary, we do this particular bank a favor by choosing it as a remittance center. There are other banks or branches that would only be too willing to handle the transaction.

I hope the bank's management will act on our complaint.—**RONIE BILLANO ORDONA, 15106 McConn Street, Webster, Texas 77598, USA**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Pakistan closes Taliban embassy

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—When the black-turbaned fighters of the Taliban took over Afghanistan and imposed their unforgiving vision of Islam on its people, Pakistan was the first country to grant diplomatic recognition to the ragtag militia it had nurtured into a potent force.

On Thursday, that relationship came full circle when Pakistan shut down the Taliban embassy in Islamabad, leaving Afghanistan's onetime rulers—now fighting to hang onto pockets of territory—without diplomatic ties to a single nation anywhere.

Ever mistrustful of outside influence—and increasingly shunned internationally as their rule grew harsher—the Taliban had forged few links with the rest of the world in the five years since they rose to power.

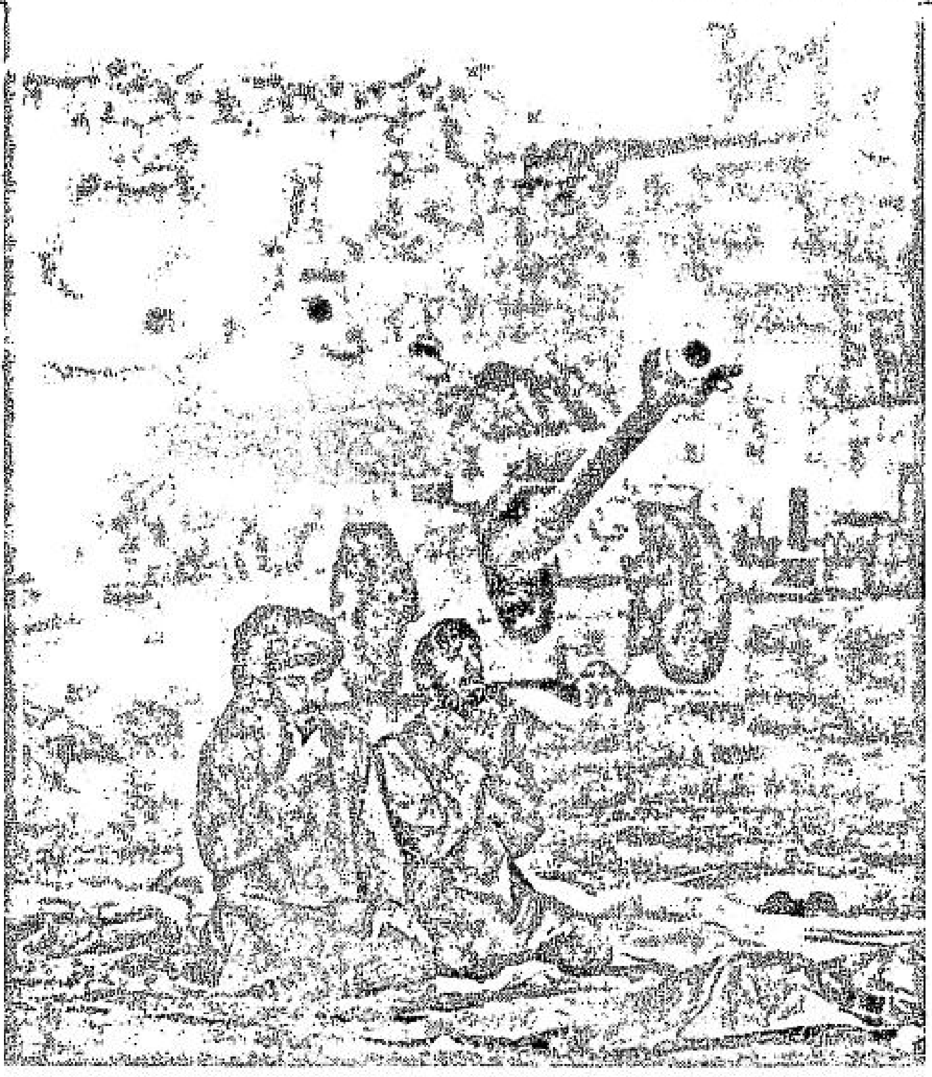
They had formal relations only with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, both of which, cut ties soon after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Not Pakistan, though. Even when the government of President Pervez Musharraf allied itself with the United States in the confrontation over Osama bin Laden, it maintained relations with the Taliban, saying it was crucial to keep the lines of communication open.

When the end came, it was announced with little fanfare. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Aziz Ahmed Khan told reporters Thursday the decision to shut down the embassy had been made a day earlier "and this decision has been communicated officially to the Afghans this morning."

For the United States, the decision didn't come a moment too soon.

"We are delighted to know that Pakistan is severing diplomatic relations with the Taliban," coalition spokesperson Kenton Keith told reporters in Islamabad. Pakistan has told the Taliban that as soon as a new provisional government for Afghanistan is established, Islamabad will recognize them. *AP*



NORTHERN Alliance soldiers pray on the front line at the border of Kunduz province, the only province in northern Afghanistan still under the Taliban control, Nov. 22. The Afghan Northern Alliance said on Thursday talks on a surrender of Taliban forces in Kunduz had failed and it had launched an offensive that it hoped would capture the besieged province by the weekend.

REUTERS

Jihad turns sour for Taliban allies

CHAKDARA, Pakistan—They left Pakistan with their heads held high to fight a holy war with their Taliban "brothers" in Afghanistan, only to return without having fired a shot and with a deep sense of betrayal.

Thousands of Pakistani tribal volunteers, outraged by the US-led bombing campaign in Afghanistan, crossed the border in late October at the behest of their leader, Soofi Mohammad, head of the radical Islamic organization, Tehreek Nifaz-e-Shariat Mohammadi (TNSM).

Despite repeated Taliban assurances that they were not needed and should remain where they were, waves of ethnic Pashtun volunteers from the tribal zones of northwest Pakistan crossed the border to defend the hardline Islamic regime against the US-led "coalition of infidels."

According to sources here, a sizeable number of volunteers were killed, especially in fighting over the strategic northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, and around 2,000 have been listed as missing.

The remainder simply drifted back into Pakistan.

"I crossed the border with around 450 others," said Bakht Wali, a 50-year-old farmer, whose frail physique and quiet demeanor hardly mark him out as a guerrilla fighter.

Wali and his fellow "jihadi" (holy warriors) stayed a few days in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad before moving on to the capital Kabul.

"The Taliban split us up and dispatched us to various front lines," said Wali, who ended up facing the advancing forces of the Northern Alliance just north of Kabul.

Wali brought his own gun and insists he received no payment for his decision to fight alongside the Taliban—a claim backed up by fellow volunteer Fazel Mohammad.

"We weren't mercenaries. We weren't paid. We just went to do our duty," Mohammad said.

But, for Wali at least, the reality of battle proved to be a far cry from the glorious holy war he had envisaged.

"In our line, there were only Pakistanis. We had nothing but our Kalashnikovs, while the Northern Alliance had heavy artillery, mortars and tanks," Wali said.

"One night, we simply decided to pack it in. I never fired a shot."

Wali was also disillusioned by the Taliban troops he encountered. "There weren't really any sincere or devout Muslims," he said.

"Many of them were just pretending to be Taliban, and I got the impression that the real Taliban were few and far between."

Wali admitted to feeling "betrayed' by people "whose actions never met up to their words."

Despite their skepticism, both Wali and Mohammad remain loyal to the Taliban's stated dream of creating a "pure" Islamic state and say they would be willing to return to Afghanistan and keep the "jihad" alive.

"This is only a temporary defeat," Wali said. "I feel ashamed to have come back like I did, but I know there is nothing better than to die for the cause of 'jihad.'" *AFP*

Americans celebrate a different Thanksgiving

BY JACQUES CHARMELOT

WASHINGTON—Americans on Thursday celebrated Thanksgiving, their hearts torn between anxiety and determination, 10 weeks after a tragedy that has branded their lives.

Since four commercial aircraft were diverted by 19 hijackers on Sept. 11 in attacks on US targets that killed 4,500 people as well as the sense of US invulnerability, the world's lone superpower has launched into a war against terror that still has yet to define its shape.

A rash of bioterror attacks by a still-unknown strain of deadly anthrax spores, a descent into economic recession that sparked waves of job cuts has also tested the mettle of the people thought by many to be the most fortunate in the world.

As their soldiers waged war in Afghanistan, Americans across the country gathered around food-laden tables to enjoy one of the few holidays that everyone, regardless of background, can celebrate.

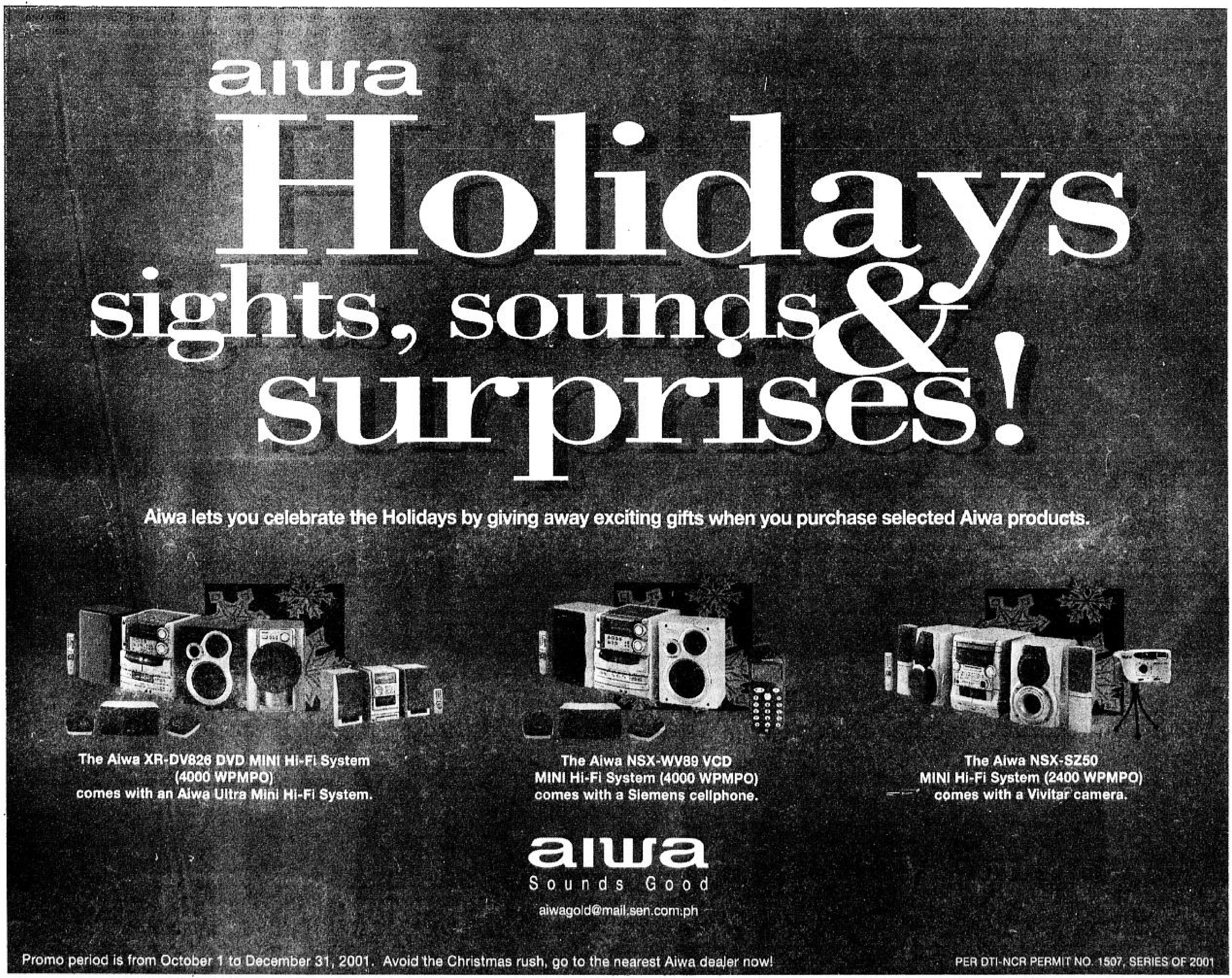
In full-page advertisements in US newspapers, US President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, gave thanks for the strength of the American people, while acknowledging the sorrow felt by the thousands of families who will have empty seats at their tables this year.

"This year we celebrate Thanksgiving still in the shadow of grief," the Bushes wrote. "Yet out of suffering and evil, great good has emerged," with millions of dollars donated in the aftermath of the events that plunged the nation into a grief from which it is only slowly beginning to emerge.

The mood for this year's celebration is a far cry from last year's, when the country was consumed by a still-unresolved presidential election, and even further from the original 1621 day of giving thanks and counting blessings.

After British colonists first landed in the new world, they gathered with their Native American hosts and slew four wild turkeys, to thank God for the providence that allowed them to escape hunger.

The annual ritual comes complete with its own menu—centered around a turkey—and is largely about the sharing a meal with friends and family. *AFP*



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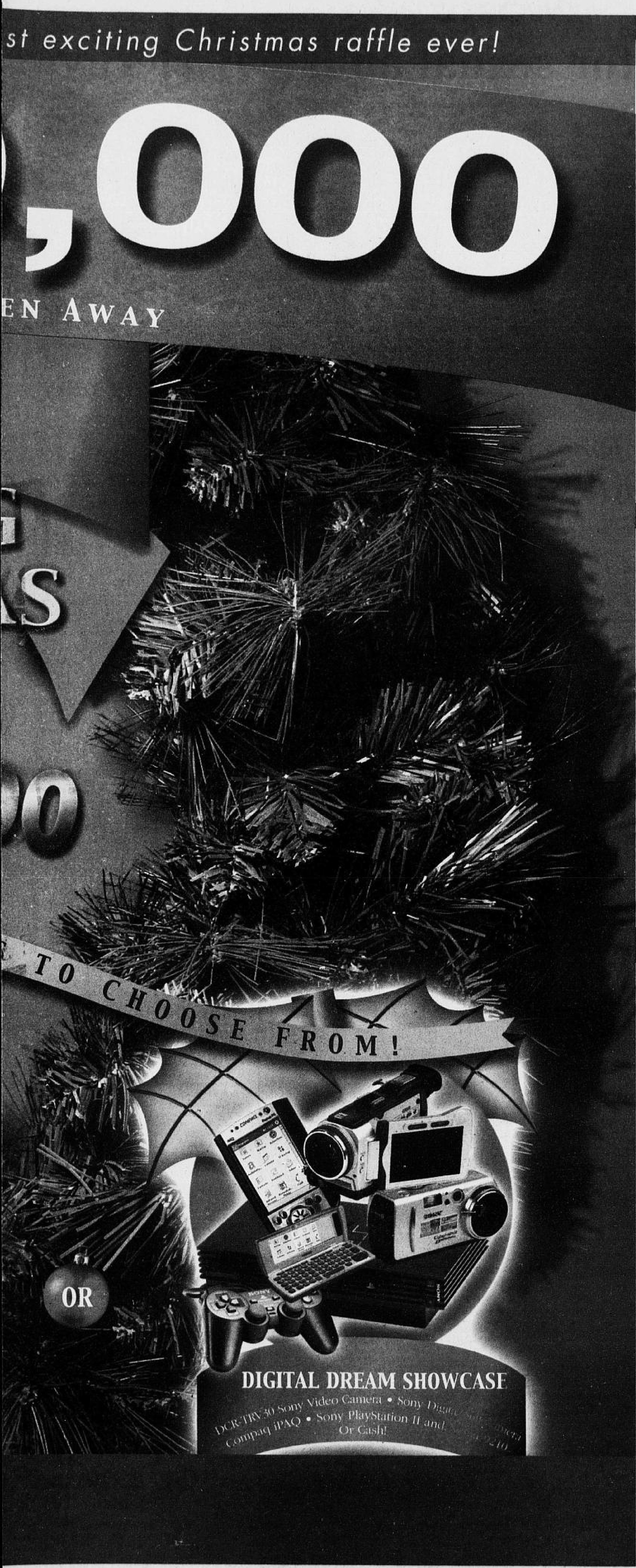
WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE GIV
AMAZING
CHRISTMA
TREAT
GRAND PRIZE
₱2,000,00
IN CASH
TAX-FREE
15 WINNERS, 3 FABULOUS SHOWCASES
BANGKOK
HONGKONG
OR
HONGKONG OR BANGKOK FAMILY TRAVEL SHOWCASE
HOME THEATER SHOWCASE
SMART
Simply Amazing!


st exciting Christmas raffle ever!
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TO CHOOSE FROM!
OR
DIGITAL DREAM SHOWCASE
DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera • Sony Digita
Compaq iPAQ • Sony PlayStation II and
Or Cash!

Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy Subscribers:

1. All active SMART Buddy (pre-paid) subscribers in good standing are eligible to participate.
2. To join, SMART Buddy subscribers must register via text. To register, key in CHRISTMAS <name>/<address>/<region> and send to 211.
   Region codes: Luzon-LZ , Visayas-VS, Mindanao-MN, Metro Manila-MM
   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The cellular phone number of SMART Buddy subscribers will serve as their raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the promo. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month of the promo duration, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.
4. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Smart Buddy Reloads

- Every reload entitles the subscriber to earn raffle entries. The number of raffle entries earned is determined by the cumulative value of reloads at the end of each month as illustrated below:

CUMULATIVE RELOAD VALUE* PER SUBSCRIBER (PER MONTH)	RAFFLE ENTRY(IES)
₱300	1
₱500	5
₱800	12
₱1,000	20
every ₱300 beyond the 1st ₱1,000	5

*Note: Pre-paid reloading via Call & Text Card, SMART Money and SMART Mobile Banking is entitled to raffle entries.

Raffle entries earned through reloads will be credited after the end of each month (e.g. all entries earned for November will be reflected in a subscriber's raffle entry balance by December 1 only).

•Via Activation

- Each new SMART Buddy SIM card activation during the promo period entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry. The raffle entry earned will be credited at the end of the month.
- All activations for the duration of the promo period will be awarded raffle entries for as long as the subscriber has duly registered for the promo.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 entries.

5. To view the number of raffle entries earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.
6. All entries earned for a particular month will be included in the monthly draw for the same period only. However, all entries not drawn are still qualified for the grand draw on January 11, 2002.
7. The participant can also opt to quit from the promo. To quit, key in CHRISTMAS QUIT and send it to 211. To register the number under a different name, the participant should repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the monthly and grand draw under the registered name.
   Rate for CHRISTMAS QUIT is ₱2.50

Promo Mechanics for SMART GOLD Subscribers:

1. Eligible individual or corporate SMART Gold (post-paid) subscribers can participate in the 2nd preliminary draw and grand draw following their billing cycles.
2. SMART Gold individual, corporate and government subscribers need not register, as they will be automatically included in the promo.
3. If a subscription is under a corporate or government account, in case it is drawn, the prize will be given to the corporate or government account.
4. The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry.
5. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

• Via Monthly Service Fee

- A SMART Gold subscriber exceeding a prescribed minimum monthly billing requirement earns him/her raffle entries.
- For every ₱250 in excess of the minimum billing requirement of each plan, a Gold subscriber earns additional 5 raffle entries.

GOLD PLAN (current)	GOLD PLAN (old)	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	RAFFLE ENTRY
300 (Corporate)	40	₱1,000	20
600	80	₱1,500	30
1,200	120 & 160	₱2,500	50
1,800	200 & 500	₱3,000	60
3,000	750	₱4,500	90
4,000	1,000	₱6,000	120

- For example, a Gold subscriber under Plan 600 has a billing of ₱2,500 he/she will earn a total of 50 raffle entries.

Plan	Minimum Monthly Billing Req.	Raffle Entry
Plan 600	₱1,500	30+20 = 50 raffle entries

Excess of ₱1,000 / 250 x 5 = 20

• Via Activation

- Each SMART Gold activation entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 raffle entries.

6. To view the number of raffle entries that you have earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211. For SMART Gold, balances will be updated at the end of the billing cycle.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.

GENERAL Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy and SMART Gold Subscribers:

1. The draw dates and prizes are as follows:

DRAW DATES	PERIOD COVERED	PRIZES
Dec. 5, 2001	Nov. 1 -30, 2001	• Five (5) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 1 winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 2 winners from Metro Manila
Jan. 10, 2002	Dec. 1-31, 2001	• Ten (10) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 4 winners from Metro Manila
GRAND DRAW: Jan. 11, 2002	Nov. 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001	One (1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF P2,000,000 IN CASH – TAX-FREE

Showcase 1: Travel/Shopping for 5 persons in Bangkok or Hong Kong plus US$2,000 pocket money. This package includes 4 days and 3 nights accommodation plus round-trip airfare.

Showcase 2: Digital Dream Showcase (Nokia 9210, DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Sony Digital Still camera, Compaq iPAQ and Sony Play Station II)

Showcase 3: Home Theater Showcase Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV and Pioneer HTD1 Home Theater System which includes 5-disc DVD/CD changer, satellite speakers, center speaker and an active subwoofer)

2. All the prizes are TAX-FREE. If a showcase winner wants to convert his/her prize to cash, they will be given ₱175,000.00.
3. A winner may only win once every raffle draw.
4. The promo is from November 21 to December 31, 2001. All activations, reloads and IDD calls made since Nov. 1, 2001 are included in the promo.
5. Winners shall be notified thru the following means:
   a. Text Message.
   b. Registered Mail
6. Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the register mail.
7. Winners must present their active SMART GSM celfone and SIM card, valid I.D. with photo and registered mail when claiming their prizes.
8. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
9. The raffle will be held at the 27/F, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Draws will be held at 12NN on December 5, January 10 and January 11.
10. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from notification of winners.

*Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown.

SMART Buddy Pre-paid

SMART GOLD GSM

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1939. Series of 2001.

Pope apologizes for sexual abuse by clergy

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II offered an "unreserved apology" to victims of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy in a document Thursday which, for the first time, the Pontiff sent by e-mail to dioceses around the world.

"The Synod Fathers wished to apologize unreservedly to the victims for the pain and disillusionment caused to them," the pontiff wrote in a report on a special Synod of Oceania's bishops held in 1998.

"In certain parts of Oceania, sexual abuse by some clergy and religious has caused great suffering and spiritual harm to the victims," acknowledged the Pope in the document, which touched on a broad range of issues directed at bishops and other clergy.

"The Synod Fathers condemned all sexual abuse and all forms of abuse of power, both within the Church and in society as a whole," he said, referring to the bishops of the islands of the central and south Pacific, including Australasia and Micronesia.

The apology was presented in a small half-page section of the 120-page report.

The Pope reserved a specific apology for the so-called "stolen generation" of Australia's Aboriginals, who along with other indigenous peoples of Oceania had suffered "shameful injustices" at the hands of the Church.

In particular, the Church "apologized unreservedly" for the part played by its members "especially where children were forcibly separated from their families," the Pontiff said.

At least 30,000 children of the so-called "stolen generation" became victims of a church-backed government policy of wrenching Aboriginal children away from their families and subjecting them to an alien white culture, on grounds that they would receive a better education and upbringing.

The practice, which according to some estimates may have affected as many as 100,000 children, began at the beginning of the 20th century and lasted until the 1970s.

The apologies follow a papal apology to China last month for the historic wrongs committed by its representatives in that country.

Wrongs done to the indigenous peoples needed to be honestly acknowledged, whether the truth had been suppressed by governments, their agencies or Christian communities, the document said.

The Church said it supported "truth commissions" to help resolve historical injustices and bring about reconciliation.

"The past cannot be undone, but honest recognition of past injustices can lead to measures and attitudes which will help to rectify the damaging effects for both the indigenous community and the wider society."

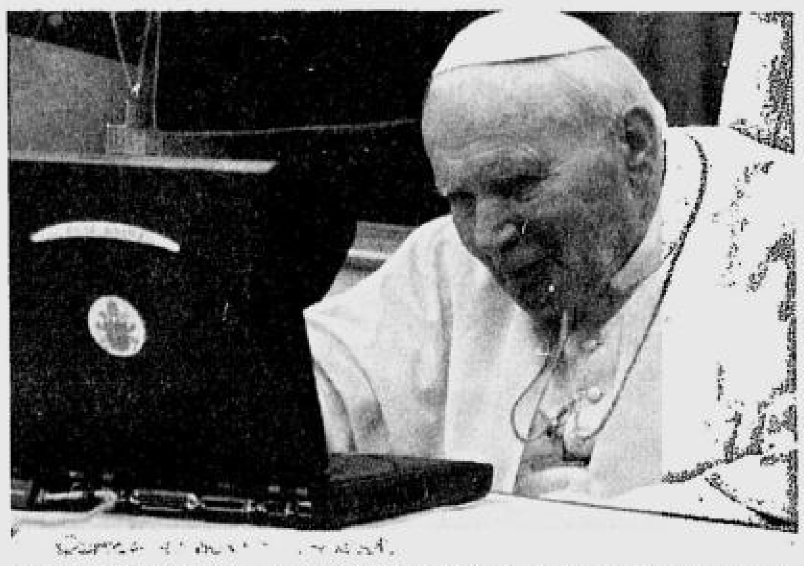
However, it said the Church had also made remarkable contributions in the fields of education, health care and social welfare, and that because of Christian missionaries, "ancient ways of violence have given way to new standards of law and justice."

The document underlined that the identity and culture of Aboriginal people "are gravely threatened," and said the Church would "support the cause of all indigenous peoples who seek a just and equitable recognition of their identity and their rights."

It said it would support their aspirations for "a just solution to the complex question of the alienation of their lands."

The document said it was the Church's task to "help indigenous cultures preserve their identity and maintain their traditions."

It hit out at the "harmful policies of some industrialized nations and increasingly powerful transnational corporations," blaming the policies for deforestation, despoliation of the land, pollution of rivers by mining, overfishing and fouling of fishing grounds with industrial or nuclear waste. *AFP*



POPE John Paul II sends an e-mail at the Vatican Nov. 22. The Pontiff, in his first message sent to the world directly over the Internet, apologized on Thursday to victims of sexual abuse by priests and other clergy, including nuns, in the developing world. REUTERS

Pwede kang maging bonggang owner ng BRAND NEW HOUSE & LOT... sa WESTERN UNION® Dream Home Promotion!

Pwedeng manalo ng brand new house and lot sa WESTERN UNION® Dream Home Promotion!

- Kung ikaw ay Filipino citizen of legal age, maaari mo nang kunin ang iyong WESTERN UNION® Pass Book sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila.
- Bawat tatlong buwan (hanggang February 2002), mamimigay kami ng WESTERN UNION® DREAM HOME!
- Sa bawat 3 qualifying international money transfers na iyong tatanggapin mula sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila, may makukuha kang free gift mula sa Western Union.

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 0669, series of 2001

WESTERN UNION MONEY TRANSFER

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW

1. Ang Raffle Promo ay magsisimula sa May 30, 2001 hanggang March 18, 2002. Mga international money transfer na ipinadala at natanggap lamang ng sinumang Filipino citizens of legal age mula sa mga kasaling Western Union agent locations sa Metro Manila ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
2. Sa unang pagtanggap ng iyong pamilya o kaibigan ng international money transfer na galing sa iyo sa kahit saan mang participating Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila ay mabibigyan sila ng Western Union Pass Book at malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
3. Sa bawat pagtanggap nila ng international money transfer ay malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
4. Kapag may tatlong stickers na ang kanilang Passbook at na-validate na ito ng participating WU agent sa Metro Manila ay papupuntahin sila sa fulfillment centers para ibigay ang kanilang Pass Book.
5. Sa fulfillment center ay pupunitin ang kalahating pahina ng passbook na may tatlong stickers at ang booklet na may raffle coupon ay isosoli sa customers kasama ng free gift na kanilang pipiliin (caps, K-wallets, T-shirts o phonebook).
6. Puwede na silang sumali sa Western Union DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW. Mga kumpletong certificate lamang ng iyong qualified receiver (tatlong validated stickers kasama ang kanilang pangalan, address, telephone number, at signature), ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
7. Di maaaring ilipat ang mga stickers na natanggap ng iyong receiver (halimbawa: hindi tatanggapin ng fulfillment centers ang tatlong certificates na may tig-iisang sticker lamang).
8. Makakakuha lamang ng free gift pag nakakumpleto ng tatlong stickers sa Western Union Passbook.
9. Para makasali sa prize draw, dapat maghulog ang iyong receiver ng validated certificate sa drop box sa fulfillment center isang linggo bago ang scheduled na prize draw.
10. Kapag ito ay di nabunot, ang validated certificate ay isasali sa susunod na raffle draw.
11. Tatlong DREAM HOME raffle draws na gaganapin sa 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium Office, ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, sa mga sumusunod na draw:

    August 24, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    November 23, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    March 18, 2002 (12:00 ng tanghali)
12. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Promotion winner ay kailangang Filipino citizen of legal age.
13. Ang mananalo sa bawat DREAM HOME prize draw ay siyang dapat na nakapangalang receiver sa tatlong qualifying international money transfers na isinali.
14. Ipaaalam ng Western Union sa DREAM HOME winner ang kanyang pagkapanalo sa loob ng 48 hours ng prize draw sa pamamagitan ng Registered Mail.
15. Ang mga hindi mananalong entries ay isasama sa mga susunod na draws.
16. Ipagbibigay alam sa mga nanalo ang petsa ng awarding ceremony na gaganapin sa lugar ng house and lot na premyo.
17. Ilalabas din ang mga pangalan ng mga DREAM HOME winners sa print ads sa Pilipinas.
18. Ang matatanggap na premyo ng WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME winner ay isang house and lot sa ReginaVille 2000 sa Barangay Inocencio, Trece Martires, Cavite-Floor plan SFW-D (Constructor: BANFF Realty & Development Corporation).
19. Isang house and lot lamang ang ipamimigay sa bawat draw at wala ng ibang premyong ibibigay maliban dito.
20. Ang WESTERN UNION ang magbabayad ng 20% tax sa mga premyong hihigit ng P10,000.
21. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay limitado lamang sa mga tatanggap (na Filipino citizens of legal age) ng international money transfer sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila mula May 30, 2001 hanggang March 11, 2002.
22. Mga premyo na hindi kinuha ng nanalo sa WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay ibabalik sa Western Union na may pahintulot at approval ng DTI.

Per DTI permit no. 0669, series of 2001

WESTERN UNION | MONEY TRANSFER®
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New drug may stop diabetes, doctors say

LONDON—A new experimental drug can block the progression of insulin-dependent diabetes and may be able to prevent the disease, which affects up to 20 million people worldwide, researchers said on Friday.

In early trials, DiaPep277 stopped the body's immune system from attacking insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas of people newly diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

"It stopped completely the destruction of beta cells," Dr. Itamar Raz, of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical School in Israel, said in an interview.

"The disease was arrested because 10 months later their capacity to secrete insulin was the same as it was in the beginning (of the trial) and even a little bit better."

If further tests produce similar results, the scientists believe the drug could become a breakthrough therapy for Type 1 diabetics and could be a preventive treatment for people at high risk of developing the disease.

"If this works as it seems to, in the near future we will be able to stop the development of Type 1 diabetes," said Raz.

The drug, which follows research by scientists at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, is produced by Peptor, a privately owned Israeli biopharmaceutical company.

The company has been considering an initial public offering of its shares in London or New York in recent months, according to industry sources.

Diabetes is a chronic illness characterized by raised blood sugar levels. The two types of the disease affect up to 150 million people worldwide.

Patients with Type 1 diabetes do not produce insulin, a hormone needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy. Many sufferers require daily insulin injections.

Those with Type 2 diabetes, the more common and milder form of the illness, cannot metabolize insulin properly.

Raz and his colleagues believe DiaPep277 could prevent Type 1 diabetes in people with a high risk of getting the disease.

Blood tests can pick up human antibodies to beta cells years before symptoms of the disease occur and before beta cells are destroyed by the immune system. If the drug is given early enough, the researchers think it could stop the killing of the beta cells before it begins.

"If we reach patients early we may be able to improve the quality of their lives by significantly reducing their dependence on insulin," said Dr. Dana Elias, who helped discover the drug. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Tighter Nato-Russia ties

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin hosts Nato Secretary General George Robertson on Friday amid signs the Alliance was offering Moscow partial veto power over its military affairs in return for cooperation in the war on terror. Robertson met Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushailo early Friday and was to wind up an action-packed two-day stay here in the Kremlin by consulting Putin on joint global security threats. Without a mandate to lead specific negotiations on behalf of Nato, Robertson has underlined that his Moscow trip was being rapidly overtaken by events—including a British offer to take in Russia as a consultative partner on some issues. *AFP*

China plans space flight

BEIJING—Citing military concerns and saying space exploration will become "as essential as electricity," China announced plans to send a man into space by 2005 and, eventually, head for the moon. China also will launch three satellites next year to monitor weather, study oceans and search for resources on earth, the official China Daily newspaper said Friday. Senior officials said China's presence in space and its developing space program—long a secretive affair, but also an endeavor that the government has framed as a symbol of national prestige—will be well-established within three years. *AP*

5 Palestinian kids killed

JERUSALEM—An Israeli booby-trap bomb was responsible for the deaths of five Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip, the daily Maariv reported Friday. Quoting military sources, the paper said the bomb was placed a week ago by special forces aiming to kill Palestinian militants who were firing mortar bombs from the area at Israeli targets. Israeli public radio meanwhile said an unidentified senior military official had called for an inquiry into the blast. Transport Minister Ephraim Sneh, who was deputy defense minister in the previous government, also called for an investigation. *AFP*

Thai lottery rigged

BANGKOK—Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Friday that gangsters had rigged the Thai national lottery on June 1 to claim prize money in an illegal underground lottery. The group marked the balls used in the draw with a luminescent chemical so specified numbers could be picked," he added. Thaksin said police had arrested two members of the gang, which hired several other people to participate in the lottery draw and apply the chemical dye. *AFP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Samar and Catanduanes provinces will experience stormy weather. Bicol region, rest of Eastern Visayas, Northeastern Mindanao and Palawan will experience widespread rains with occasional gusty winds. Luzon, rest of Visayas and Mindanao wil have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 21° Lo 12°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 18°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	HI 30° Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Widespread Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/24/01

Church backs fewer kids

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—"Go, but do not multiply."

This was the call of the Catholic Church here, perhaps convinced of the need to cooperate with the government in the implementation of the population program because of the country's high population growth rate.

According to the World Population Report 2001 released recently by the United Nations, the country's population is rising at 2.36 percent annually, or by about 1.7 million every year.

In Pangasinan, where the annual growth rate is 2.2 percent, the provincial government and the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese have forged a partnership in the implementation of the natural family planning (NFP) program called the Pangasinan model for church-government partnership.

A memorandum of agreement, signed last year by Gov. Victor Agbayani and Bishop Oscar Cruz, called for the use and sharing of the resources of the government and Church to pursue the program.

The Church is amenable only to natural methods, but the program is a breakthrough because in the past, it was passive about, or even rejected, population control programs, provincial population officer Luzviminda Muego said.

"Before, Church leaders said they were for natural methods, but they never lifted a finger to convince couples to practice the methods. But now, the Church actively supports the program, with the members of the Family Life Apostolate assisting in the training of NFP teachers," Muego said.

Cruz, immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, stressed that the Church was never against population control.

"The Church was always for responsible parenthood, telling couples not to multiply irresponsibly but to have the number of children that they can afford," he said.

Currently, 15 lay leaders of the diocese are trained as lecturers on NFP methods.

While priests may know how to teach the methods, "it would be awkward for them to be lecturing about family planning," Cruz said.

He said lay leaders do not wait for couples to seek their help but they go to the community to tell them about the advantages of having few children.

Agbayani had asked Cruz to help the program because, he said, there was a need for every institution to cooperate in the population program and that the Church is "an effective medium to bring the program to the people."

He said a high population growth brings "heavy pressure on the local governments and institutions to provide for even the basic needs of the families."

The regional office of the Population Commission, headed by Oscar Mabalot, planned to replicate the program in the provinces in the Ilocos region.

"We are facing a large unmet need in the family planning service, and the Pangasinan population model is a timely initiative because the government is looking for ways to sustain the gains of the population management program," Mabalot said.

Cruz has endorsed to Malacañang the program integrating the standard methods of natural family planning in the health delivery system of the region.

This method, developed by the Institute for Reproductive Health of the Georgetown University in the United States, is based on the woman's menstrual cycle, which begins on the first day of her period and ends on the day before her next period.

It uses a necklace (which reminds one of a rosary) with 32 beads representing the days of the cycle.

The red bead is the first day of the woman's period, the white beads are the days when a woman can get pregnant, and the brown beads are when the woman cannot get pregnant.

A band is put on the red bead when the period starts and is moved every morning. The day is marked on the calendar.

When the band is on white bead, the couple must avoid unprotected intercourse to prevent pregnancy.

Because the white beads are luminous, they are easily seen by the couple in the dark.

Given the macho culture of Filipinos, to whom abstinence from sexual activities on certain days may not be acceptable, the standard days method may not be a hit.

ROUNDUP

Arson try at SPDA office

DAVAO CITY—Unidentified arsonists tried but failed to burn the administration building of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) in Catalunan Pequeño here. The early discovery of the fire inside one of the toilets by security personnel prevented its spread to the whole building. Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan, SPDA administrator, said fire investigators found that "there was a deliberate attempt to destroy the main building of SPDA." Earlier a project consultant was injured after a bomb exploded at the SPDA guesthouse.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Foreign aid to Camiguin

THE SPANISH and Japanese governments have given a total of P7.44 million to residents of Camiguin province who are now suffering from the devastation wrought by Typhoon Nanang. In separate statements, the two governments, through their embassies in the Philippines announced the donations. Spain said it gave P6 million in humanitarian aid to Camiguin folk. Japan said it was giving P1.44 million. Japan said the funds it was donating would be used to buy tools and equipment for the rehabilitation of Camiguin villages destroyed during the typhoon. Spain said it has earlier given P38 million in aid for various humanitarian projects.

Pro-poor program started

NAGA CITY—Crisanto Castro Jr., undersecretary for regional development in Bicol, said Malacañang has released P5 million for socioeconomic projects in several villages here. Castro said the Office of the Presidential Advisers for Rural Development has coordinated with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which will identify the beneficiaries.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bicol has share in grant

LEGAZPI CITY—The government is expecting some $100 million in grant from Japan to finance the relocation of poor families in calamity areas in the country, including the Bicol region. Albert Crisostomo, National Housing Authority Bicol regional director, said among the beneficiaries are residents near the Mayon Volcano. Over 12,000 families living within the permanent danger zone and high-risk areas face evacuation every time the volcano erupts.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Courses phased out

LEGAZPI CITY—The Commission on Higher Education in Bicol has ordered the Dynamic Computer Colleges here to phase out effective this second semester three computer courses for failing to comply with requirements and because of students' complaint of lack of instructors. Schools superintendent Milagros Esparrago identified the courses as Bachelor of Science (BS) in Information Technology, BS in Computer Engineering and BS Computer Science. She also ordered the school to immediately release the students' clearances and other records so they could enroll in other schools.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Co-op wants privatization

LUCENA CITY—A vendors' cooperative called Koop Naman has petitioned the city government to privatize the city market's operations and let the cooperative manage it. The market is being managed by a city hall-appointed administrator. The co-op officials said they want to prepare the market for expected competition from the soon-to-be constructed SM Mega Mall in Barangay Ibabang Dupay. City hall officials promised to study the proposal.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Ready for attacks

LUCENA CITY—The Southern Luzon Command here said it is prepared to respond to renewed offensives of the New People's Army. "There is no unusual movement in the enemy's stronghold that is not being monitored by troops in the field," said Maj. Gerard Velez, Solcom spokesperson in reaction to recent NPA attacks in other provinces. He said he has ordered more troop patrols. He also ordered the forming of quick reaction teams.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Little Red Schoolhouse

THE 25th Little Red Schoolhouse was turned over recently by the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines Inc. (CCFPI) to the country's public school system, with the Arnap Elementary School in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur as a recipient. The Project, the CCFPI's five-year flagship program, ends in 2002 with 50 fully equipped schoolhouses throughout the country.

Ferry passengers stranded as storm enters E. Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—At least 500 passengers bound for Manila and other parts of Luzon were stranded in the port areas of Allen and San Isidro towns in Northern Samar because of the entry of tropical storm "Ondoy" in the area.

Reports reaching the Office of Civil Defense in Camp Ruperto Kangleon in Palo, Leyte said the ferry boat passengers bound for Luzon were stranded in the two towns since Tuesday as small to medium sea craft are no longer allowed to depart from the ports.

Storm Signal No. 2 is now hoisted over the Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Catanduanes provinces.

Tropical storm "Ondoy," with sustained winds of 75 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph, was estimated to be 400 kilometers east of Catarman, Northern Samar by tomorrow morning, according to the latest bulletin from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Storm Signal No. 1 was in effect over the rest of Samar, Leyte provinces, Biliran Island, all in Eastern Visayas; Camarines province, Southern Quezon, Albay, Burias Island, Sorsogon, Masbate in Southern Luzon; and Dinagat Island, Siargao Island and Surigao del Norte, in Mindanao.

Geneva Calijan, officer-in-charge of the OCD for Eastern Visayas, said she would convene members of the disaster coordinating council to prepare for any relief operations in areas affected by the typhoon.

Another weather disturbance, tropical depression "Pabling," with rains and winds of 55 kph, was also moving closer to southern Palawan and was expected to affect the area by tomorrow morning.

The Pagasa has placed the whole of Palawan under Storm Signal No. 1.

The region was recently hit by Typhoon Nanang that devastated Camiguin province most.

Hundreds of people from Camiguin province were killed when flashfloods swept through at least five villages in Camiguin.

Scores of others were believed trapped in mudslides and have not been found.

The province recently received aid from foreign governments (*see story in Roundup*).

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Camiguin folk develop fear of rain

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Residents of Camiguin have developed an unusual fear of rain that they do not want to take chances anymore every time there is a downpour, Gov. Pedro Romualdo said Thursday.

Romualdo said on occasions when rains are heavy, residents of the province would move to safer areas.

He said that the attitude developed after the devastating flood at the height of Typhoon Nanang on Nov. 6 left at least 148 people, most of them children.

"People would not take chances anymore and immediately move to (the) nearest evacuation centers for their safety," Romualdo told the INQUIRER.

This week alone, Romualdo said that heavy rains sent residents of Mahinog town to an evacuation center.

He said they stayed in the evacuation center even after the rains for fear of another flashflood.

"We already have phobia and every time there is heavy rain, the people, even without advice from the disaster council, would vacate their homes," he said.

He said residents do not even bother securing their property "to ensure that they would be safe."

Romualdo said he pities his constituents, who continue to bear the brunt of the Nov. 6 tragedy.

Social welfare officials admitted that it would take some time before residents affected by the tragedy learn to cope.

The INQUIRER learned that the primary targets of counseling sessions are individuals who lost family members.

But Romualdo said something should be done to at least lessen the fears of residents every time it would rain.

He said that the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) could put up a weather station on the island to monitor the weather pattern.

Romualdo said the weather station could determine if there would be a need to evacuate residents.

"It would definitely end these fear," Romualdo said.

Shirley Almazan, in charge of the Pagasa office here, said the agency has long realized the need for a weather station in Camiguin.

But she said the establishment of a weather station has been hampered by the lack of budget.

Romualdo said the national government might consider building a weather station on the island as one of its priorities, if only to help Camiguin folk overcome their fears.

'Besides, it would help us a lot in knowing when to leave our homes," he said. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TARGET COMELEC

Grenade explosion injures 3

COTABATO CITY—Three persons were hurt when unidentified men lobbed a grenade in front of the regional office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) here Thursday night.

Supt. Sanggacala Baraguir, city police chief, identified the victims as Sheryl Shiao, a Chinese-Filipino trader who operates an Internet café on the ground floor of the Comelec office, her helper Elmer David and Delfin Delumbar, a security guard of a nearby store.

Police said the victims might have been mistaken for election officials leaving the Comelec office along Sinsuat Avenue here.

It was the second grenade attack against the Comelec and the third such incident in Cotabato City since Sunday.

On Nov. 18, a rifle grenade fired from a passing vehicle destroyed a hallway leading to the Comelec regional office.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front, condemned the attack. But he said it could not be related to the coming elections.

"This city is not participating in the elections on Monday . . . we are looking deeply into the case," he said as he warned the public to be extra vigilant against some groups out to disrupt the coming Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao elections.

Although not part of ARMM, Cotabato City hosts regional centers, including the provincial and regional Comelec offices.

Lawyer Clarita Callar, Comelec-Central Mindanao director, said the grenade attacks would not prevent them from administering the elections on Monday.

She believed the two grenade attacks on the Comelec office were part of an effort by some sectors to disrupt the ARMM elections. *Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pro-Clark NGOs vow no retreat

TWO groups demanding the full operation of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark vowed to pursue their objectives despite what they said was a well-financed campaign to discredit them.

In a statement, the Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement and the Move Clark Now said they continue to trust in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her promise to operate the DMIA to its full capacity.

"We expect more vicious attacks and smear campaigns against us and our struggle for the full development of the Macapagal airport," the groups' statement said.

"We don't easily break. We will not be cowed or intimidated by any cheap shots against us," it added.

They said they continue to "have faith in our *cabalen* (province mate) President Macapagal-Arroyo."

"It is not too much to expect that as an economist and as an intelligent woman, she would see the wisdom of our struggle and deal the final card on the Piatco contract," said the groups.

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Available at all ROBINSONS & WALTERMART HANDYMAN outlets, STA. LUCIA EAST GRANDMALL Exhibit Hall, Phase 3, 4th Level & STA. LUCIA EAST GRANDMALL Home Gallery Phase I, Ground Floor, MC HOME BUILDERS DEPOT INC. Edsa, cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City & Ortigas Ave.; Cor. Meralco Ave., Pasig City, FESTIVAL SUPERMALL INC., Ground Level, 2nd Level, & 3rd Level, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, HAN'S INFINITE TOOLS, 6th Level, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City & CSI LUCAO WAREHOUSE CLUB, Lucao District, Dagupan City.

Relentless Revolutionaries

Celebrating 10 Years of

CODE NGO

KASALI KA, SUMALI KA!

Theirs is, literally, an armed struggle, because their work involves the hands of more than 3,000 NGOs spread across the country, but it is a struggle nonetheless. For 10 years now, the Caucus of Development NGO Networks, more commonly known as CODE-NGO, has served as the unifying body of the various development NGOs in the Philippines today. One might call it a revolution of the ordinary, as CODE-NGO constantly works to foster the development begun in the various ordinary Filipino communities by the many ordinary NGOs in the country. But this revolution of the ordinary is by no means any less relentless.

The Roots of Revolution

CODE-NGO began in 1991 when 10 of the largest NGO networks in the Philippines held a National Congress in December of that year. Almost a thousand people, each representing a particular community with unique developmental needs, gathered together in solidarity to forge what would come to be known as the Covenant on Philippine Development. This document has since become the basic policy framework on which many NGOs have built advocacy platforms. That first congress also produced the CODE of Conduct for Development NGOs, a document that would establish rigorous standards for development NGOs, giving them their own identity and authority.

With that first and most crucial step done, the tasks of implementation and further integration remained, and these two tasks have defined the past ten years of CODE-NGO.

A Revolution of Resources

Perhaps the primary function served by CODE-NGO is that it has become the vital nerve center of development work in the Philippines today. CODE-NGO has become the major resource and reference center for its member NGOs and people's organizations, for government and the academe, for donors and even visiting foreign researchers. Most recently, CODE-NGO has completed what is perhaps the most comprehensive directory of development NGOs in the Philippines.

As the nexus of reference and information, CODE-NGO serves as a mechanism for building consensus on issues concerning development and the trajectory of development work being done, such that the entire body can participate in forming public policy and engaging government at various levels. To this end, CODE-NGO has established the Advocacy Committee that is tasked with engaging government to protect gains won in the past and to protest policies which could be detrimental to development.

CODE-NGO also has the function of establishing and upholding standards for the community of development NGOs. CODE-NGO encourages member NGOs to initiate their own internal reforms in order to maintain the integrity and efficiency of their work. These reforms not only improve development practices but also pave the way for NGOs to explore new avenues and expand their influence and capabilities. Its unique position allows CODE-NGO to introduce innovations in development practices in the country as well as to provide linkages with the international development community. CODE-NGO also serves as a conduit and mediator of resources, encouraging members to implement better strategies in maintaining and increasing resources.

A Revolution of Reform

These structures within CODE-NGO have allowed it to flourish in the past 10 years. Although the members themselves will say that they are far from their goals of development, their triumphs are formidable indicators of just how relentless these revolutionaries of the ordinary are.

CODE-NGO has made its presence felt in the formation of public policy, as the network has influenced decisions of government offices and other institutions towards a more developmental turn. But perhaps the greatest and most recent instance of the influence of CODE-NGO came with the second people power revolution.

Months prior to the tumultuous events of January 2001, CODE-NGO had already begun to act with the reconvening of the second Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino, with the National Peace Conference and Konsensyang Pilipino. Acting against the deepening crisis in Philippine society, CODE-NGO employed its national and regional structures as the National Secretariat of KOMPIL II. KOMPIL II, with CODE-NGO as Secretariat, brought together more than 250 organizations, coalitions and networks, consisting of over 1500 delegates from all sectors and regions to address the growing problems of society. With its vast network, CODE-NGO served as the backbone of People Power II, successfully mobilizing and consolidating its forces in peaceful protest. The succeeding days would see a change of leadership and an impetus for new action.

This new action would come in the form of a new funding mechanism, designed to raise funds from the capital market to pursue CODE-NGO's anti-poverty program. With this new scheme, CODE-NGO shall establish the PEACE Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit entity managed by Philippine NGOs to mobilize financial resources needed to address poverty and inequality in rural and urban poor community. In this manner will these revolutionaries of the ordinary continue relentlessly: use the structures of economy to uplift instead of enslave, to develop instead of destroy.

After the events of May 1, 2001, the need for new methods and new paradigms has become more apparent. More than ever, society is aware of the great disparity between the rich and the poor, a gulf so great that even our language and principles must again be brought to question. In these days after May 1, CODE-NGO sees its role as a mediator and an innovator. By bringing the service done in particular communities to the national light, CODE-NGO aims to show the poor and those who would serve them that they are not alone, that the struggle is being fought elsewhere by kindred spirits. In this way, CODE-NGO hopes to bring the whole nation to a greater awareness of the need for development in our country and in the world.

A Revolution of Response

At the end of the day, this "armed" struggle that the NGOs, which form CODE-NGO, wage will not be won without a change of paradigm. Such is the struggle of any non-government organization, working to change the tide of ingrained injustice and self-interest in order to find a new path.

And the turns of history have not been particularly kind in the past few years. Wars and rumors of wars, famine, starvation, and poverty continue to plague our country and the world. To these seemingly insurmountable problems, an easy response would be to hide in comfort and security, to forget that the world creaks and shudders with every starving child, with every empty stomach.

But the revolutionaries of CODE-NGO would give a different response. If any revolution is paramount in this age, it is the revolution of response, it is the revolution against indifference, which is at once an invitation to dialogue and a call to collaborate, at once a cry for compassion and a demand for discipline and rigor. And so it is with CODE-NGO. In their "armed" struggle, they reach out and converge, drawing together the particular communities and needs, the organizations who serve them, indeed, pulling the whole country together in this effort of development. The road has been long and difficult, the triumphs worthwhile but simply not yet enough, the revolution far from over, but these relentless revolutionaries of the ordinary would not have it any other way.

The Past, The Present, and The Future

Can you imagine a time when the term NGO did not exist? In the 1950s, all non-stock, non-profit organizations incorporated with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) were classified as foundations. Only a handful of them existed until Congress enacted the Science Act of 1958. This law, which encouraged the formation of science foundations by granting 100% tax exemption on donations and income from investments, created the National Science Development Board (NSDB) as its implementing agency. "

By 1973, 453 foundations were listed with the SEC, 349 based in the Greater Manila area (no NCR yet), and 104 in the provinces; 91 of these were certified by the NSDB. In 1977, there were 737 foundations.

These non-profits were not widely known, so working in them in the early 1970s meant being asked if a foundation was a construction, underwear, or make-up firm.

Since the Marcos government was deficient in providing basic services, by the mid-1980s, a new phenomenon happened. 15,000 to 18,000 non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), and cooperatives were formed to help alleviate the lot of the less privileged. Foreign funding agencies gave grants to these NGOs (foundations now falling under this new term) to operate a wide variety of programs. Of course, many politicians also set up "foundations" to hide the money they were stealing.

Because of the political situation at the time, many of the NGOs were anti-government. However, with the toppling of the dictatorship in 1986, these NGOs became more open to collaborating, cooperating, and even partnering with government in the task of nation-building. The enactment of the Local Government Code ten years ago provided the legal framework for NGOs to relate directly with local governments.

Naturally, the scene is full of successful partnerships, as well as frustrating stories. However, what is important is the fact that in general, the relationship between government and civil society (another new word coined in the 1990s) is no longer adversarial. Critical collaboration and partnership in areas where there are agreements, would probably be a more accurate description.

Another step forward is in the relationship of civil society with the business sector. Again, this is moving away from a perspective of distrust on both sides, with business looking at NGOs as communists or troublemakers, and NGOs looking at business as making money at the expense of the poor. While this linkage is still quite new and not well developed, there are now examples of partnerships between NGOs and business corporations in projects to help the poor. Of course the big differences and the conflicts of interest still exist. Nevertheless, the lines of communication have been opened and efforts to find areas of agreement continue.

What is the NGO? It is catalyst and innovator, consensus-builder, advocate for reforms, community organizer and development facilitator. People saw the advocate role in action when civil society organizations campaigned and organized the removal of Erap. What the public is not aware of, or does not understand, is what the bulk of NGOs are: community builders, development facilitators, and consensus builders. Providing education, health, and social services to the poor; involvement in environmental projects, opening opportunities for economic activities (livelihood, micro finance); building capacities of the community members; empowering the people socially, economically and politically - these are not news-worthy activities even though they have direct impact on the lives of the poor and the marginalized sectors of society. The NGO pioneers of the 1950s-1970s were the trailblazers in organizing and exploring areas of cooperation whereby their respective competencies could complement and

CODE-NGO: Innovating for PEACE

On November 30, 2001, CODE-NGO will be launching the PEACE Foundation, a new funding mechanism that is CODE-NGO's most recent contribution to the development community. The launching is timely, marking CODE-NGO's celebration of 10 years of service and commitment to development work in the country. Officers from CODE-NGO's seven national and six regional NGO networks as well as representatives from other civil society groups and the government and business sectors will be gathering for this significant event.

The PEACE Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit entity organized by CODE-NGO to give Philippine NGOs and people's organizations (POs) access to needed financial resources for addressing poverty, inequity, and structural injustice in rural and urban poor communities. Poverty alleviation through Peace, Equity and Access for Community Empowerment or PEACE is precisely the vision and goal of the foundation made possible through a permanent endowment and capital fund put up by the NGO Caucus.

Funding through PEACe Bonds

Since Mid-February of this year, CODE-NGO has been working towards raising funds from the capital market to pursue the anti-poverty program of the civil society sector. Bravely dipping its toes into the securities market, CODE-NGO carefully considered the concept of purchasing Treasury Notes (T-Notes) or Bonds from the government. These serve as receipts of government borrowing used to claim debt payment at the end of a prescribed period of time.

After months of multi-sectoral planning and coordination, CODE-NGO successfully obtained P 35B ten-year zero-coupon T-Notes with a secondary reserve eligibility granted by the Monetary Board. The purchase of the T-Notes was done through CODE-NGO's underwriter, the Rizal Commercial Banking Center (RCBC). The T-Notes, appropriately renamed Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates or PEACe Bonds, were then immediately purchased by RCBC from CODE-NGO for reselling to its investors. From the sale, CODE-NGO raised P 1.3B which now serves as the PEACE Foundation's fund.

According to Danilo Songco, CODE-NGO's Executive Director, "Exploring how the PEACe Bonds could work led us into an innovative way of tapping the financial market for poverty reduction. This is the first and only current initiative in the Philippines and in the world that shows how we can tap the capital market in support of development objectives."

A Perpetual Fund for Philippine NGOs

With the capital and endowment fund CODE-NGO raised through the PEACe Bonds, the PEACE Foundation will be able to give sustained support not only to service provision but also to micro-credit and capacity building projects for the poor. "The beauty of the Foundation's fund is that it is a perpetual fund. To preserve and safeguard it, only the interest income and project reflows will be used to fund project," said Mr. Songco. It is estimated that the P 1.3B fund will generate interest income of anywhere from 70 million to 100 million pesos per year for the Foundation's operating and program expenses.

Moreover, the PEACE Foundation presents Philippine NGOs and POs with a real and viable alternative to mobilizing funds from international funding agencies for its development projects and programs by providing a local source of funds for national development. The NGO-PO community currently faces a financial crisis. Mr. Songco pointed out that while NGOs have worked towards uplifting the living conditions of the poor for more than four decades now, it is a reality that international financial assistance shifted priorities to other countries where funds are also badly needed. The establishment of the PEACE Foundation thus comes at a relevant time when NGOs are losing steam because of drying funds. He explains that, "Through the endowment fund, NGOs and POs can continue to realize their commitment to serve the poor and promote social development."

Collaboration with Government and the Private Sector

The organization of the PEACE Foundation is not just a milestone for CODE-NGO and civil society; it is a milestone as well for the government and private sectors of the Philippine Nation. Without Government support of CODE-NGO's vision and RCBC's manifestation of corporate responsibility, setting up the endowment fund would not have been possible. The PEACE Foundation gives flesh to the development potential of tri-sectoral collaboration that can only be realized when there is a shared sense of mission and commitment to poverty alleviation and development.

Mr. Songco points out that the PEACE Foundation is really the result of the collaborative effort of the three sectors. "Because of this", he says, "the Foundation's Board of Trustees shall consist of members representing CODE-NGO and the basic sectors, eminent persons from the business and academe, and two honorary members from the government." From the government, a representative of the Department of Finance and Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles, lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, will be sitting in the board.

Secretary Deles expresses high hopes in the PEACE Foundation as it will make available much needed resources that government has been sorely lacking especially with the worldwide economic crisis aggravating the difficulties at the local level. She also believes it will help provide mechanisms for fine-tuning civil society participation and partnership with government not least of which involves the task of more strategic thinking regarding projects, giving greater consideration to quick impact on the welfare of the poor. Sec. Deles adds, "The challenge for this fund is really to make it reach those in need including the unorganized poor."

Moving Ahead

During the launching of the PEACE Foundation on November 30, CODE-NGO will be introducing the plans and upcoming programs for which the fund will be utilized. Through the Foundation, CODE-NGO has opened new opportunities for organizations everywhere to expand, strengthen, and deepen its anti-poverty programs. Mr. Dan Songco shares, "In less than a month since the fund was finalized, we already have projects moving. We realized that there is a need for urgency given our country's state of poverty. We'd like to hit the ground running and begin to quickly address the needs of the poor given the resources we now have."

WEEKLONG ACTIVITIES

- **Social Development Market:**
  24-28 Nov 2001
  Glorietta Activity Area, Ayala Center
- **Social Development Exhibit:**
  24-28 Nov 2001
  Glorietta Activity Area, Ayala Center
- **Development Forum Series**
  (see schedule below)
- **3rd National Congress:**
  30 Nov 2001
  UP Film Center
  UP Campus, Diliman

Matching Partnerships

By Deanie Lyn Ocampo

CODE-NGO recently inked a partnership with the Philippine Association for Volunteer Effort, Inc. (PAVE), a network of organizations and individuals that advocates service through volunteerism, in order to further strengthen the capacities of social development organizations. According to PAVE officials, volunteerism is a cost-effective way of achieving different advocacies as volunteers provide assistance at minimal or no cost for the services they render. In addition, volunteers develop a feeling of responsibility to, and ownership of, the projects they are involved in.

PAVE will launch the partnership by setting up a Computerized Volunteer Matching Booth in the Social Development Market during the Social Development Week. iVolunteer.ph, the Philippines' pioneer volunteerism web portal (www.ivolunteer.ph), will provide the web-based matching facility in the booth.

To harness the power and reach of the Internet to foster volunteerism, iVolunteer matches individuals who may be interested to volunteer with organizations offering volunteer opportunities through the web. This is made possible through its online sign-up, registration, and submission facilities for volunteers and organizations, as well as its smart search functions (ex. by location, tasks). In addition, iVolunteer provides volunteers with information about the participating organizations, its advocacy, competence, sectoral partners, among others. It also gives the organizations online administrative screen for its volunteer match communications. To be featured also in the portal are resources on volunteerism like inspirational stories, articles about volunteer-assisted development programs, training modules and activities for volunteer managers, and an online discussion forum at Café Revol. iVolunteer maintains PAVE's volunteerism database and serves as the eAdvocacy unit of PAVE-CODE-NGO partnership.

PAVE will likewise take part in the Social Development Forum with a round-table discussion on "Thinking Strategically in Managing Volunteers" on November 29. The forum will feature new and emerging trends in volunteer management such as the use of information and communications technology (ICT) and the Volunteer Sector Management graduate course of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance. The forum is co-sponsored by the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (CSSP), UP Diliman.

Volunteerism expresses every person's inherent goodness. The partnership between CODE-NGO and PAVE is an exciting and challenging first step to help build a larger, compassionate society of people who believe in unity amidst diversity.

The Board of Trustees of PAVE are Corazon Alma G. de Leon (Honorary Chair), Amelita Dayrit-Go (Chair), Virginia P. Davide (President), Grace Aguiling-Dalisay (VP-External Affairs), Dulce Baybay (VP-Internal Affairs), Celia A. Bernardo (Secretary), and Telibert C. Laoc (Treasurer).

www.iVolunteer.ph
The Philippines' first volunteerism portal

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*(cont...***The Past***)* supplement each other for greater effectiveness in nation-building. They were succeeded by the NGOs of the 1980s-2000s who had been tried and tested by their grassroots experience, whose idealisms had been conscientized by the Marcos era of repression, and whose passions had been enkindled by the corruption of an inept Erap. These two generations of NGOs have built one of the most developed NGO communities in the world.

So what happens next?

To ensure the continuing commitment of NGO workers to social development work, CODE-NGO has initiated a Successor Generation Program (SucGen or "Kami Naman!"). It has the task of wooing, keeping, and mentoring the next generation of development workers to have the necessary commitment and vision not only to continue the work, but also to bring into it the originality, creativity, and passion the present situation - and the future - require.

Getting the country out of the cycle of national poverty is too huge a problem for any one sector, and this generation, to solve. All the different sectors, as well as each citizen, must do their share now, for a better future.

CODE NGO Development Forum Series Nov. 26-29, 2001

Coordinated by the: Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs (ACSPPA)
Tel: 426-6061/62, 4266001 locals 4643/44 • Fax: 4265999
Email: ororo@admu.edu.ph & jamche08@admu.edu.ph c/o Amihan R. Perez & Pauline Rebucas

November 26, Monday

Good Governance: For NGOs, By NGOs, With NGOs
Good governance is a strategic factor for sustainable human development. This forum aims to look at civil society in two views: its participation in governance and its practice of good governance themselves.

Date/Time: Nov. 26, 8:30 am -12:00 nn
Venue: AVR, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University
Sponsor: Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs (ACSPPA)

Appraising Poverty Reduction Strategies
This forum aims to assess the effects of asset distribution, social service reforms, and social protection on poverty in order to gauge which of these policies can be more effective in reducing poverty. To present their studies are Dr. Leonardo Lanzona, Ms. Cristina Bautista, and Dr. Cielito Habito, faculty members of the Ateneo Economics Department.

Date/Time: Nov. 26, 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Venue: AVR, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University
Sponsor: Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs (ACSPPA)
Contact Details: 426-6061/62, 426-6001 locals 4643/44 c/o Jovel Balaguer and Pauline Rebucas

THE GMO DEBATE: IS IT RESOLVABLE?
The earlier the issue of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in the Philippines is resolved, the better for all the stakeholders. To realize this, a multi-sectoral forum is being organized. Hopefully, Filipino scientists/academicians, farmers, government officials, and community workers could come up with a unified perspective on GMOs in food and agriculture.

Date/Time: Nov. 26, 8 am – 5 pm
Venue: Environmental Studies Institute; Miriam College, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Sponsor: Miriam P.E.A.C.E.
Contact Details: Mila Serrana: TF 920-5093 TL 927-2421 local 348

November 27, Tuesday

Public Presentation of the Study on the People's Participation in the Local Development Council (LDC)
After obtaining seats in the LDC, some NGOs found themselves unprepared for what was to occur. It was also known that sometimes LGUs and NGOs clash, and some LDCs were "non-functional". In view of these, DILG saw the need to undertake a definitive study on the role of LDCs, focusing in particular on people's participation in these institutions.

Date/Time: Nov. 27, 9 am- 12 nn
Venue: Room 5, Institute for Social Order, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Sponsor: Evelio B. Javier Foundation
Contact Details: Jingle Trinidad & Polly Dichoso, TL 912-8064/912-8065

Forum on Evolving Modes of Business-Civil Society Partnership
The forum aims to share the evolving trends and modes of business and civil society partnerships as experienced directly by PBSP and by its local and international partners.

Date/Time: Nov. 27, 9:00 am- 12:00 nn
Venue: Function Rms., A&B, Universal Leisure Club, 4/F Equitable Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Sponsor: Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)
Contact Details: TL 527-7741 local 308 c/o Eden Garde & Emma Ton

Housing Co-ops viz. Coop Housing. A New Solution to an Old Problem
The forum will focus on the "housing cooperatives as differentiated from cooperative housing." Housing co-ops as promoted by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) have been successful in other countries, and promise to be a vital part of the solution to our housing problem. Sec. Michael Defensor of HUDCC will be speaking in this activity.

Date/Time: Nov. 27, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Venue: Room 6, ISO Building, Social Dev't. Complex, Ateneo Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Sponsor: National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)
Contact Details: DL 912-5962; T 913-7015 c/o Dodo Macasaet

Panel Discussions on Innovative Mechanisms for Relevance and Accountability of NGOs: Monitoring and Measuring the Impact of NGO Work
The sharing of member-networks of CODE-NGO, as well as invited NGOs, will provide opportunities to draw out existing mechanisms of how each network monitors and measures the impact of their affiliates (NGOs working on the ground) in improving the condition of their constituents.

Date/Time: Nov. 27, 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Venue: Ugnayan Hall, Partnership Center, PhilDHRRA, 59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Sponsor: PhilDHRRA
Contact Details: T 436-0702 TF 426-0385 c/o Nonoy Villas

Alternative Lawyering and the Pursuit of Development
The forum seeks to present alternative lawyering as a legitimate and necessary strategy for development.

Date/Time: Nov. 27, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Venue: Social Development Complex Conference Hall, Ateneo de Manila University
Sponsor: Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanaw (BALAOD-Mindanaw), Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan (KAISAHAN), & Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal (SALIGAN)
Contact Details: 426-6001 local 4858/4859 c/o Atty. Marlon Manuel

November 28, Wednesday

Juvenile Justice System: For or Against the Youth?
Issues and concerns affecting the youth and the juvenile justice system will be discussed as framework or basis for specific policy and program recommendations.

Date/Time: Nov. 28, 9:00 am – 12:00 nn
Venue: Norfil Training Center, Norfil Foundation
16 Mother Ignacia cor. Roces Ave., Q.C.
Sponsor: National Council for Social Development (NCSD)
Contact Details: T 929-2477/929-8438 UPCSW c/o Edith Venus-Maslang; and 448-6975 c/o Cora Paraiso

Kung May K, OK: The Plight of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the Philippines
This forum will serve as a venue for discussion of proposed amendments to the Magna Carta for the disabled persons. It will focus on the rights, issues, and concerns involving persons with disabilities.

Date/Time: Nov. 28, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Venue: Norfil Training Center, Norfil Foundation
16 Mother Ignacia cor. Roces Ave., Q.C.
Sponsor: National Council for Social Development (NCSD)
Contact Details: T 929-2477/929-8438 UPCSW c/o Edith Venus-Maslang; and 448-6975 c/o Cora Paraiso

Logic and Sustainability in Micro-Finance
A forum to increase awareness of the standards, challenges, trends, and strategic choices of micro-finance. Successful practices shall also be discussed.

Date/Time: Nov. 28, 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Venue: SGV Hall, 3rd Floor, AIM Conference Center, Makati City
Sponsor: Association of Foundations
Contact Details: 913-7231, 911-9792 c/o Joey Alegre;
Email: afnational@edsamail.com.ph

November 29, Thursday

Thinking Strategically in Managing Volunteers
How can we help organizations sustain volunteer service? The forum aims to share the work of the Philippine Association for Volunteer Efforts, Inc. (PAVE) in managing volunteers – training the people who manage volunteers, planning programs to get volunteers and sustaining them.

Date/Time: Nov. 29, 9:00 am – 12:00 nn
Venue: Audio Visual Room, College of Social Sciences & Philosophy, UP Diliman, Quezon City
Sponsor: PAVE
Contact Details: 920-5301 locals 4720/8056, DL 920-5362 c/o Maribel Aro

Our Home, Our Neighborhood, Our Cities, Our Future
The conference has two parts: the morning session focuses on the household – community level of urban development work where approaches are shared to address the shelter needs of the urban poor. The afternoon session elevates the discussion from the community level to the city level where paradigms and approaches of urban stakeholders are challenged.

Date/Time: Nov. 29, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Venue: Rms. 5 & 6, Walter Hogan Conference Center, ISO, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University
Sponsoring Organization: PHILSSA
Contact Details: 426-6001 local 4854 c/o Lanie Garcia

A Symposium on the Lessons in Implementing Agrarian Reform Through Tripartism: PhilDHRRA's Experiences in Implementing TriPARRD
For a decade now, PhilDHRRA has been implementing TriPARRD program in four provinces covering more than 50 communities and nearly 8,000 farmers. In the forum, PhilDHRRA will share the varying issues, the effective and not so effective strategies, and the policy issues related per type of landholding.

Date/Time: Nov. 29, 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Venue: Rms. 1 & 2, Walter Hogan Hall, ISO Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University
Sponsoring Organization: PhilDHRRA
Contact Details: T 436-0702 TF 426-0385 c/o Emie Lim

CODE-NGO thanks the Embassy of Japan for their invaluable and unfailing support.

INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Racing against time to save Iloilo heritage

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

CONCERNED Ilonggos are racing against time to save quaint old buildings, historical landmarks and heritage sites in the downtown area of Iloilo City before they are lost to sledge hammers and demolition crew that are slowly claiming the area in the name of progress.

The Iloilo City Cultural Heritage Conservation Council (ICCHC) is currently cataloging 22 buildings along Calle Real, the old commercial district that includes the streets of Mapa, Guanco, Aldeguer, J.M. Basa and Iznart.

The research, which delved into the history of the building, its owners and the identification of architectural details and influences, is part of the project to revitalize Iloilo City's central business district.

Lawyer Jose Junio Jacela, a former city councilor, stressed the need to preserve Calle Real because "the old buildings mirror the cultural influences in Iloilo through time."

"It is a tragedy if we fail to notice them in the remaining landmarks," said Jacela in Tuesday's forum to revive the central business district held at the Philippine National Bank Multi-purpose Hall as part of the ongoing Hublag arts festival.

Jacela authored Ordinance 00-054 in April last year that provides for reviving and restoring the old central business district that will be called the Iloilo heritage zone. Last May, shortly before his term ended, Jacela also authored an amending ordinance providing for tax holidays to investors and businesses that will relocate along Calle Real, the heritage zone.

TEXTILE
THE COMMONER INC
SEVEN SEVEN

ONE of the buildings identified for preservation. THE VISAYAS EXAMINER FILE PHOTO

Under the ordinance, a new business gets one year of exemption from business taxes for every 10 years of doing business in the area. Jacela, however, admitted that the incentives are not enough.

Decay

In the past years, the downtown district, once the hub of commerce and trade in the city, suffered from decay due to the rise of air-conditioned malls that attract shoppers away. The opening of a new mall near the downtown area pushed Calle Real faster into becoming another retail slum.

But the ICCHC said that there is still hope that the decay could be arrested if they would work fast enough to preserve the period heritage structures from being lost forever.

Architect Manuel Tingson of the University of San Agustin said that the 22 buildings that are being documented include Cacho Building, known for its local baroque architecture; and the Elizalde Building, the Antillan-inspired *balay nga bato*, and the International Hotel, where the neo-classical design is evident. All the buildings identified for preservation are at least 50 years old.

The city government recently received a grant of P175,000 from Ford Motor Co. to fund the cataloging of buildings and structures along the old central business district.

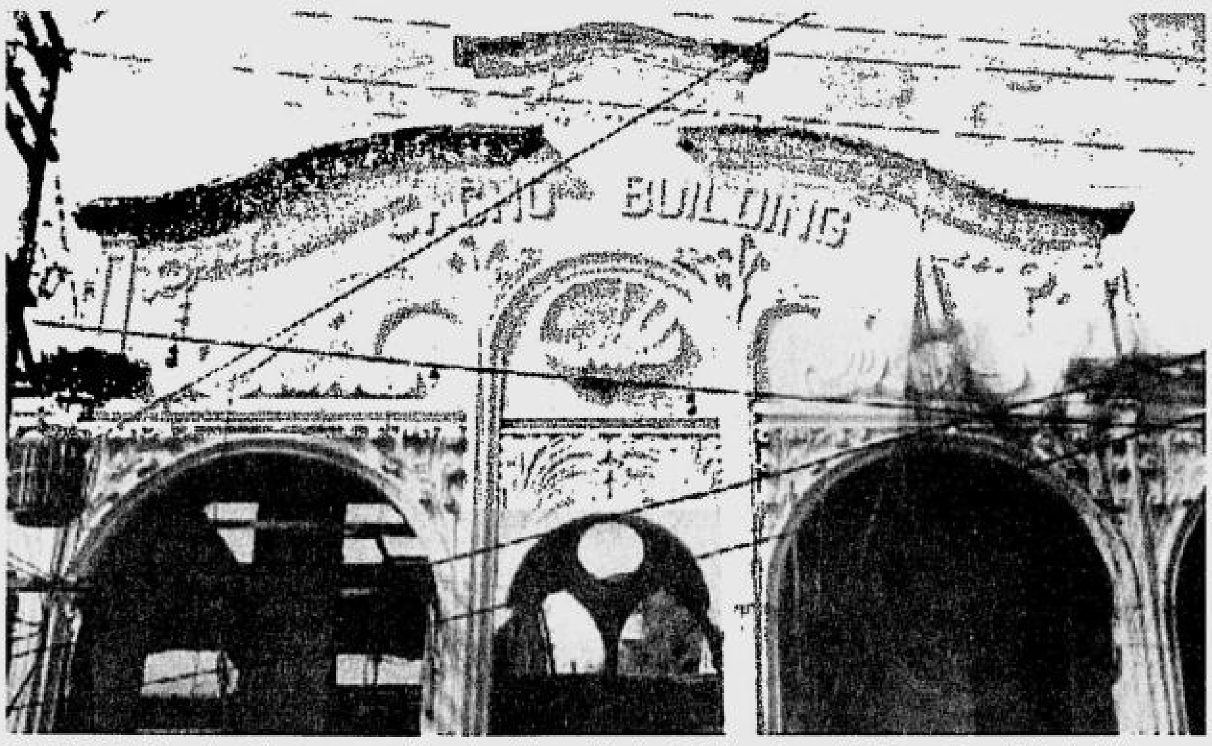
Jose Roni Peñalosa of the city planning office said that the ICCHC's vision is to make Iloilo City the seat of Visayas heritage. Strategies were identified to enliven the downtown district and make it a tourism destination.

Calle Real is known as the Escolta of Iloilo. In the 19th century, it was the liveliest place in the commercial district of Iloilo and it was so until the 1980s, before the rise of air-conditioned malls.

In 1877, the first department store in the Philippines was built on Calle Real by Hoskyn and Co., owned by the Hoskyn brothers, who are nephews of Nicholas Loney, the first British vice consul in Iloilo.

Hoskyn's store introduced the "fixed price policy" in merchandising in the Philippines. It sold almost everything from needles to ships' anchor. It offered groceries, hardware, stationery, toys, watches, jewelry, imported machinery, buttons, threads and cosmetics among others.

Calle Real is also Iloilo's Chinatown. Tingson said the ICCHC would soon meet with building owners and administrators, many of them ethnic Chinese, to discuss plans to preserve the buildings that would also instill pride of their ancestry.



HISTORIANS and architects stopped the demolition of Cacho Building along J.M. Basa Street. The building was home to the Panay Electric Co. organized in 1902. ARNOLD ALMACEN

REENACTMENT of *paghimamat* held at the shoreline of Rizal Park in Dumaguete City. ROMY AMARADO

'Sandurot,' a feast promoted through 'word of mouth'

BY ROMY AMARADO
Dumaguete City

DUMAGUETE CITY is now trying to carve its rightful place in the field of tourism through its unique festival called "Sandurot."

Sandurot is a collective Visayan term for hospitality, sharing and unity.

It is usually held a few days before Nov. 25, the city's charter day and fiesta celebration. For this year, the seventh year of the festival, it was held on Nov. 18.

As explained by the city's fiesta committee in a brochure, "Sandurot retraces the history of the coming of foreign peoples to the shores of Dumaguit, now Dumaguete City."

"The bonding of kindred spirits, the intermingling of the Aetas, Chinese, Muslims, Hindu, Spaniards, Japanese, Americans, the Malays and the indigenous people contributed to the final shaping of the unique character that is the Dumaguete," it says.

Sandurot, which is now fast becoming the main attraction of the city's charter day and fiesta, is unique because it does not only feature the usual street dancing and chanting, but includes a reenactment of the past.

Sandurot is presented in three different stages: "*Paghimamat*" (the meeting and welcoming of guests), followed by "*Pasundayag*" (the performance), and closed by the "*Pasigarbo*" (the showing off of cultural heritage).

The *Pasundayag* and *Pasigarbo* are interpreted by competing contingents through dance and chants.

In the *paghimamat*, the arrival, meeting, and harmonious co-existence of the visitors and the natives are reenacted by government officials and local residents who wear period costumes representing the different cultures and nationalities who came to settle in Dumaguete City.

The activity is punctuated by a symbolic offering of gifts and cultural presentations. To make the activity more meaningful, the *paghimamat* is held at the shoreline area of the historic Rizal Boulevard, a park-cum-promenade area dotted by centuries-old trees and considered one of the city's most prominent landmarks.

Glorious moment

Then came the *pasundayag*, a street dancing competition portraying "the varying cultures that have left imprints upon the Dumaguete identity."

The festival is culminated by the *pasigarbo*, also known as the dance showdown, which is "the final spectacle capturing cultural essence in one glorious moment of interpretative dance where each dance is a proud proclamation of heritage and tradition."

City Mayor Agustin Perdices, who, along with some friends and associates, conceptualized the festival in the mid-1990's, said he intends to promote the festival to foreign and local tourists by "marketing it through word of mouth."

He hopes that tourists who have been able to witness the Sandurot festival will tell their friends about it and come to the city every year.

Perdices said they also want to continue on improving the Sandurot's production to make it a "world class festival."

In this year's Sandurot, the contingent from Barangay Calindagan defended its title as overall champion, aside from romping away with all other minor awards. Barangays Daro and Candau-ay captured the second and third places, respectively.

The price we should not pay for development

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

TO REMEMBER Silliman University is to remember the sea, the sunrise, and the slowness of the day. When Protestant missionaries built the university in 1901 they picked Dumaguete City precisely because of its environment, its clean sea, location, and the gentleness of its people.

Dumaguete is a hub of writers and poets because there one can be in a place full of inspiration from nature, away from the noise and dirt of urbanized cities. This is the beauty of Dumaguete, and many people want it to stay the way it is. Like many of its alumni, I intend to spend some years there someday, to teach, to learn, to write, and to enjoy what each day brings.

But now there is an imminent danger that many of the things we love about Dumaguete and Silliman could be gone in several years, if we let the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) have its way. The PPA wants to reclaim 15.6 hectares of Dumaguete's coast from Rizal Boulevard to E.J. Blanco, including 1.3 hectares in front of Silliman Gate Avenue and Guy Hall for a fast ferry terminal.

In 1996, the PPA started its project by having the Dumaguete Sangguniang Panglunsod pass a resolution requesting it to construct a berthing facility for fast ferries. After years of protests by a multi-sectoral group called Citizens Alliance for Responsible Development (CARD) which includes Silliman University, its church council, Gabriela, and students' organizations, the SP withdrew that resolution in September 2001.

It then required PPA to get an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

From the start PPA has been avoiding the requirement of an ECC from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. What is it afraid of? It is because it does not want to comply with the required Environmental Impact Assessment study, which, if conducted by genuine experts, could prove Silliman University's experts and Dr. Angel Alcala correct. Alcala says that reclamation will cause changes in the ocean current system and water circulation, destruction of marine life, and result in flooding. He says that sea level rise is inevitable in the 21st century and will have a negative impact on reclaimed land because of massive erosion in the future.

CARD offers as alternative—the City Engineering Compound, which is near the existing berthing facility for fast ferries. But like an irritated bull the PPA is stomping its feet, and says that if Dumaguete doesn't want the project they can bring it elsewhere.

To date, no environmental impact assessment has been made or known to the people of Dumaguete. PPA instead would prefer to insult the intelligence of Sillimanians by refuting the protest group's experts' opinion without citing contrary evidence.

The arrogance of PPA is a classic example of how the policy of local autonomy and people empowerment is conveniently pushed aside in the name of "development projects" implemented by national agencies. Worse, the PPA officers' contempt for those who want to preserve the environment near Silliman University shows in their propaganda material, striking down the issue as "minor dictates of choosing beauty . . . over . . . the convenience of the constituents."

PPA should be castigated by the DENR and the DILG for violating Section 26 and 27 of the Local Government Code, which requires consultation with the local government, non-government organizations and other sectors in the planning stage of the project, to ensure its "impact upon the people and the community in terms of environmental or ecological balance, and the measures that will be undertaken to prevent or minimize the effects."

Development is good, if it is appropriate for the community and is sustainable. And environmental preservation and protection is a must for sustainable development. Every community should go for long term gains, not short-term goods. In case of doubt, it is right for the people to refuse the project. What good is a big ferry terminal which years later will pollute the sea and marine life?

The protest group is also correct in asking that if the project pushes through, how much will the city government get as share of PPA's revenues? PPA wants the city to bear the burden of probable environmental degradation and increased pressure on its services such as roads and traffic, but it gives no assurance of remedies and revenue sharing.

PPA cites Singapore as a developed port city, meaning that Dumaguete will lose out in the development race if it refuses the project. We can forgive PPA's officials for their seeming indecent haste in pushing through with this project, but we cannot forgive their ignorance. You cannot compare guavas with melons, just as you can see the difference between cats and dogs.

Singapore is a rich and developed country; we are not. As Alcala correctly puts it, Singapore doesn't care if it reclaims all of its sea and pollutes it. It doesn't get food from its sea.

Singapore imports food from poor countries like ours. It even imports its water from Malaysia. The fisherfolk and the people of Dumaguete, on the other hand, rely on the sea for fish and other marine life. If it is good for Dumaguete to stay small, let it stay small.

But PPA says in effect that we Sillimanians are just being sentimental. But of course Sillimanians are sentimental! We have invested dreams and memories in Dumaguete and Silliman. Many of the alumni of Silliman University, coming from all over the world for its 100th Founder's Day last August, were dismayed to find that the Silliman Beach they used to swim in is no longer there. I myself found this out several years before, and felt a deep loss, as if a memory was erased and I was so sure I had it before.

Where there used to be a beach is now just dirty sand. That is the result of soil erosion after the government reclaimed a portion of the beach to construct the airport.

Last week, another protest rally was held by CARD. Here we will test the mettle of the DENR in enforcing its laws and rules. And the PPA will continue to face the courage and determination of an intelligent community that will not agree to be hoodwinked.

* * *

Announcement: The alumni homecoming of the Davao National High School will be held on Dec. 9 at the Davao Convention and Trade Center.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 24, 2001
33rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *1 Mac 6:113*
Gospel: *Lk 20:27-40*

Some Sadducees arrived. These people claim that there is no resurrection and they asked Jesus this question, "Master, in the Scripture Moses told us: 'If anyone dies leaving a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife, and the child to be born will be regarded as the child of the deceased man.' Now, there were seven brothers; the first married a wife, but he died without children; and the second and the third took the wife; in fact all seven died leaving no children. Last of all the woman died. On the day of the resurrection, to which of them will the woman be wife? For the seven had her as wife."

And Jesus replied, "Taking husband or wife is proper to people of this world, but for those who are considered worthy of the world to come and of resurrection from the dead, there is no more marriage. Besides, they cannot die for they are like the angels. They too are sons and daughters of God because they are born of the resurrection.

Yes, the dead will be raised, and even Moses implied it in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord *the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob*. For he is God of the living and not of the dead, and for him all are alive."

Some teachers of the Law then agreed with Jesus, "Master, you have spoken well." They didn't dare to ask him anything else.

Commentary:

Life after death is a mystery, which is treated in different ways by Greeks and the Bible. The Old Testament takes death as an end, but it asks if there is a new life after it. This means, "Will the dead body rise?" This defines the question of the resurrection. To the Greeks, death is not an end. It is the liberation of the soul from the body. The soul is immortal: it does not die. Its life continues through death. It is only the body that dies. This is the view of the teaching of immortality. In this story the Sadducees are testing Jesus on the question of the resurrection. Jesus affirms the reality of the resurrection. And he also adds immortality—two answers in one.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW)—Doctrine of *Lex loci contractus*—According to the doctrine, as a general rule, the law of the place where a contract is made or entered into governs with respect to its nature and validity, obligation and interpretation. This has been said to be the rule even though the place where the contract was made is different from the place where it is to be performed, and particularly so, if the place of making and the place of performance are the same. Hence, the court should apply the law of the place where the airline ticket was issued, when the passengers are residents and nationals of the forum and the ticket is issued in such State by the defendant airline. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, United Airlines Inc. vs Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 124110, April 20, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Taliban won't yield Kunduz as talks fail

(From page A1)

backed forces.

As Alliance artillery shelled enemy positions in and around the Taliban's last enclave in northern Afghanistan, US warplanes bombed the Taliban from the air in the 47th day of America's campaign against Osama bin Laden's embattled protectors.

US surveillance planes—bolstered by the addition of the sophisticated high-flying Global Hawk—patrolled the Afghan skies in a relentless hunt for the fugitive Islamic militant, believed to be hiding in the mountains of southern Afghanistan.

The Northern Alliance said its forces were closing in on Kunduz and vowed to swiftly capture the city where thousands of Taliban fighters, as well as Pakistanis, Arabs and Chechens allied with Bin Laden, are encircled.

Up to 600 Taliban fighters have surrendered in the area around Kunduz, according to the Northern Alliance.

As the state of talks to end the impasse remained confused, a US B-52 again bombed Taliban positions and alliance commanders said they had dislodged the militia from the hills around the town of Khanabad, near Kunduz.

The main stumbling block to negotiations was the do-or-die resistance of some 2,000 fanatical Pakistanis, Arabs and Chechens who were dug in alongside the Afghan Taliban, alliance commanders said. None of the hundreds of pro-Taliban troops who surrendered in the past two days were foreigners.

The offensive followed contradictory reports of a surrender agreement, but the Alliance said it had tried and failed to negotiate a surrender with its foes and was forced to attack.

"We have tried to settle the issue of Kunduz through negotiation but we have been forced to choose a military solution," Alliance Interior Minister Yunus Qanuni told Reuters in an interview in Kabul. "At the moment our forces are advancing. We hope by tomorrow we will have secured Kunduz."

He said 15,000 Taliban troops in Kunduz, including up to 10,000 foreigners, "had no intention of surrendering" despite stop-and-start negotiations that had dragged on for days.

No pity

The United States has made plain it has little pity for the besieged pro-Taliban forces, particularly the Arab and other foreign fighters, and has opposed any deal to allow them to escape being captured or killed.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Wednesday, "Any idea that those people should be let loose on any basis at all to leave that country to go bring terror to other countries and destabilize other countries, is unacceptable."

Washington believes at least some of the foreigners are members of the al-Qaida network headed by Bin Laden, which is accused of carrying out the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that killed about 4,000 people.

The Northern Alliance said the Afghan Taliban in Kunduz were willing to surrender, but the al-Qaida fighters, expecting no mercy if they gave up, were fighting to the death and executing would-be deserters.

The failed surrender negotiations were apparently intended to avert a possible massacre of the trapped foreign fighters, who are loathed by the Northern Alliance.

The fears of a massacre were underlined by an announcement by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which said in Geneva that 400 to 600 bodies had been found in Mazar-e-Sharif, a strategic northern city recently captured by the Alliance.

The Red Cross said it could not say whether the dead had been executed or killed in fighting. Nor was it able to say whether they were Afghans or foreigners.

Diplomatic isolation

The Taliban were also completely isolated diplomatically on Thursday when Pakistan ordered it to close its embassy in Islamabad, the hard-line Islamic militia's last remaining diplomatic mission anywhere in the world.

The Taliban complained the move was dictated by the United States.

"The pressure is clear," Taliban Ambassador Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef told Qatar's al-Jazeera television station. "At first the pressure was to close the consulate in Karachi and two days ago they closed the consulate in Peshawar. All this was the result of American pressure."

In the United States, Americans celebrated their Thanksgiving holiday, and President George W. Bush signaled there would be no letup in the war on terrorism.

Bush spent the holiday at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland, surrounded by family but also consulting with his national security and military advisers.

On Wednesday, Bush paid special tribute to the US military's contribution since the Afghan campaign began on Oct. 7. "We've made a good start," he told troops at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. "Thanks to you, every nation is seeing what will happen if you cash in your lot with the terrorists. Thanks to you, there is less fear in the world, and more freedom, and more hope, and a better chance for peace."

As US special forces scoured the mountains where Bin Laden and other al-Qaida members might be hiding, the military added the formidable Global Hawk to its high-tech surveillance effort. The US Air Force has four of the planes, which provide high-resolution, real-time imagery of large areas.

High tech

The skies above Afghanistan are also patrolled by unmanned Predator drones, capable of firing Hellfire anti-tank missiles at tunnels and caves where Bin Laden is suspected of hiding.

Among an array of cutting-edge technology being used by US special forces are sensors capable of homing in on heat sources in the cold Afghan mountains. They can penetrate darkness and solid rock to detect vibrations and magnetic fields that may provide clues to Bin Laden's hiding place.

Apart from the military action, the US war on terrorism is being aggressively waged by its intelligence services. The Washington Post reported on Thursday that about 360 suspects with alleged connections to al-Qaida had been arrested and detained in 50 countries at the urging of the CIA.

The Post said the massive international roundup mirrored a broader detention program by the FBI in the United States that has netted more than 1,100 people, some of whom are believed to have information about terrorists.

The numbers of arrests were much larger than those previously reported, and the newspaper quoted sources as saying they may have thrown some al-Qaida cells off balance, although it was not clear whether any attacks had been prevented.

With the Taliban under siege in both Kunduz and Kandahar, two more Western allies said on Thursday that they were prepared to commit troops to the US-led Afghan campaign. ***Reuters***

Biggest carrot cake

(From page A1)

Weighing 1,012 kilos and measuring 12 feet by four feet, the cake was first displayed in public at 1:30 p.m. at the provincial capitol here to mark Benguet's 101st founding anniversary.

Sen. Edgardo Angara led the ceremonial presentation of the cake to the public by crowning the carrot replica, which is made of fondant and sponge, with Ibaloi's tribal headgear.

Mignon de Leon, Benguet Tourism Council chair, said the cake could feed at least 7,000 people.

Chefs and staffers of the Baguio Country Club (BCT) stood beside their gigantic masterpiece along with Gov. Raul Molintas and Vice Gov. Edna Tabanda, and raised the placards, saying, "World Record or Bust."

De Leon said BTC and the Department of Tourism are determined to have the King Carrot cake entered into the Guinness Book of World Records.

"We have documented everything—from the preparation to the presentation. We will enter this feat to the Guinness through the DOT," she said.

BCC's chef Art Nucaza, who baked the cake, said they started preparing the ingredients at 10 a.m. Thursday. "After doing everything, we were very happy. We felt that we have accomplished something for the people," he said.

Samuel Torres, BCC's food and beverage manager, said they had spent more than P200,000 for the cake.

"But if this is a private contract, we would charge them at least P1 million," he said.

As early as 11 a.m. Friday, participants started to arrive at the provincial capitol to view the cake, said Pura Molintas, DOT regional director.

A slice of cake cost P10.

"I am happy to see the biggest cake. I would want something like this for my birthday," said 10-year-old Lordyne Lopate.

Nucaza's staff cut the cake and started to serve the cake at 3 p.m.

De Leon said the King Carrot cake would stamp Benguet as the country's salad bowl.

"It is our objective to give recognition to the farmers of Benguet who work hard to plant quality vegetables," Molintas said.
Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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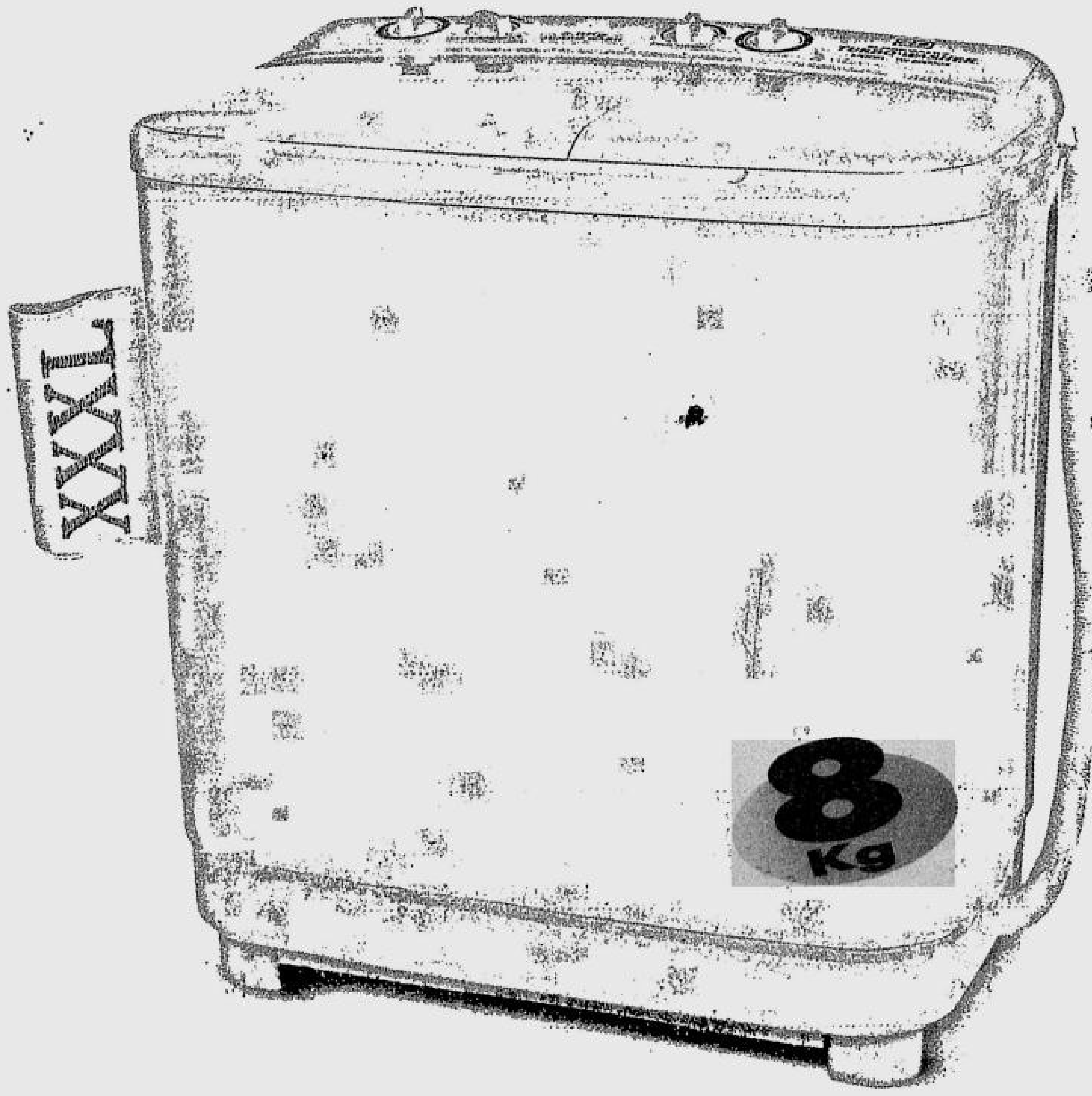

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3D
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Gloria's big push wins Bush support for RP vets' cause

(From page A1)

Nov. 19) with Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Leo Mackay and four other VA officials. She was very forceful during the meeting. I was in awe at the way she fought on behalf of all veterans, particularly those living in the Philippines, who always seemed to get the short end from benefits bills passed by the US Congress."

De Ocampo added that "this is the first time a President of the Philippines really dealt with US officials in a very forceful manner" to advance the cause of the Filipino veterans.

After meeting with Ms Macapagal last Tuesday, President George W. Bush said he "will carefully consider all legislative proposals to ensure the sacrifices of these (Filipino World War II) veterans are recognized."

Bush also said this will be done "I hope by December 1st."

During the Nov. 20 remarks at the White House photo-op, President Bush in answer to a question, said, "Oh, the veterans—she did bring up the issue. And she strongly brought it up, and she was an advocate for the Philippine veterans bill, which has been an issue around here for a period of time."

Bush's clear commitment

Philippine Scouts member Guillermo O. Rumingan told the INQUIRER: "I've seen all five Presidents visit the US, starting from President Ferdinand Marcos. I think President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the only one who was able to get a strong, clear commitment from the US President—imagine, even a date was specified."

After emerging from her 45-minute meeting with Bush, Ms Macapagal told the assembled media, "(National Security Advisor) Condoleezza Rice said they'll be ready, they're rushing the administration position, and they look very sympathetic with regard to this issue."

Elation

She said, in reply to a question by the INQUIRER, that the White House would consider "the pending bills" in the current Congress.

Elated veterans based in the United States have expressed gratitude to Ms Macapagal for "her crucial help in persuading President George W. Bush to support our pending bills in Congress" during their Tuesday meeting at the White House.

There are two active bills in the 107th Congress. One of them, H.R. (House Resolution) 491, "The Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2001," seeks to provide medical care and disability pension benefits to some 50,000 surviving Filipino veterans in the Philippines and in the US. The Equity Bill has been re-filed again and again since June 1994, to no avail.

A sister bill in the Senate, S. 1042, would provide only health care benefits to all veterans, including an Outpatient Clinic for those living in the Philippines.

Like father, like son

Patrick Ganio Sr., 81, national president of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans (ACFV) talked of their elation over the US President's statement. The statement came two days before Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22), a major US holiday.

"This is what I've been looking forward to happen. President Bush will finish what his father President Bush began in 1990," Purple Heart medal awardee Ganio told the INQUIRER.

The elder Bush signed into law the Immigration Act of 1990, which granted US citizenship to Filipino World War II veterans with service-connected disability.

Ganio added, "Thanksgiving Day this year has acquired more meaning for Filipino World War II veterans. We've waited and waited all these years for something definite like this to happen."

Veterans advocate Dr. Lupo Carlota, a Republican leader from Memphis, Tennessee, told the INQUIRER: "Five stars for President Arroyo's leadership during this war against terrorism. Her visit is a success on many fronts. We're happy that she will be working with President Bush for our veterans to receive well-deserved additional benefits from the US."

Carlota is a member of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at the White House.

Dwindling numbers

There are some 10,000 Filipino WWII veterans in the US, whose number has dwindled over the years due to death. Since last year, more than a thousand have decided to retire to the Philippines after receiving reduced Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Over 40,000 are currently residing in the Philippines.

Filipino veterans braved the chilly weather at the support tally for Presidents Bush and Macapagal while they were meeting at the White House.

Leaders from this city and out-of-state took turns to speak at the rally. They included: Joe Montano Jr., executive director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations; Ludy Corrales, president of the New Jersey Federation of Philippine Societies; Malou Mariano of the San Mateo, California Fil-Am Council; Ben Menor of San Jose North Side Community Center.

Others who also came were: Edith Manzano, from the Fil-Am Community Council of Michigan; Owen Diaz, Michigan leader; Dr. Bernardo Danan, Michigan Philippine Medical Association; Cora Alisuag, a business leader in this capital city; and Antonio David, president of the World Bank Group-IMF Filipino Employees Association.

Eric Lachica, the ACFV executive director, urged coalition supporters to fax letters to President Bush for recognizing the Filipino veterans military service and to urge his support for Senate bill S. 1042 and the "Equity bill," H.R. 491 in the House in the 107th Congress.

Latest development

The US House of Representatives' Veterans Affairs subcommittee on health benefits has scheduled a Dec. 19 hearing on the health care needs of Filipino WWII veterans.

The House is dominated by the Republican Party, of which President Bush is the titular head.

The hearing will take place in California. It will be presided by Congressman Jerry Moran (Republican, Kansas) and minority ranking member Congressman Bob Filner (Democrat from San Diego, California).

Among those who are expected to testify are: Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham, a strong supporter of Filipino WWII veterans, and Congresswoman Susan Davis (Democrat from San Diego, CA). Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi has been invited to testify. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

After wife's suicide, Rudy sips champagne

(From page A1)

Three huge tents were set up in a spacious garden just fronting Fariñas' two-story complex, to house the expected droves of relatives and friends.

"It came as a shock. This was least expected. Rudy is very sad, he just lost his wife," Gloria Fariñas-Peralta, Fariñas' younger sister, said.

Carlson's body will lie in state at the Fariñas house.

Fariñas' older brother, Laoag City Mayor Roger Fariñas, who was in Manila earlier for an official business, supervised the transport of Carlson's body.

The former governor, also a one-time congressman, said his wife, whom he fondly called "Maria," had attempted suicide in the past.

No foul

Degracia said that based on the initial results of the investigation, no foul play is apparent in the death of Carlson. He stressed, however, that every possibility is being considered.

President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed grief over Carlson's suicide yesterday morning, calling it a "sad" incident.

She clarified, however, that she did not receive the video tape which Carlson reportedly left in Malacañang late Thursday night.

"I have not received the tape," Ms Macapagal said, when informed during her press conference that the tape reportedly contained images of Carlson being beaten up by her husband.

Carlson reportedly went to the Palace between 11 and 11:30 p.m. Thursday with the tape.

Death images

The couple would have marked their ninth wedding anniversary on Nov. 28. It was reportedly former Sen. Freddie Webb, Carlson's former co-actor in the TV sitcom, who introduced the former beauty queen and actress to Fariñas. In the sitcom, she referred to her character as "Si Ako".

"Just Thursday while we were talking on the phone, she told me that somebody was out to kill her. To my mind, I could picture her probably seeing images of death coming after her," Fariñas told reporters.

"One time, she threatened to kill herself right at the very hour. These are constant episodes that she would undergo, but I never thought it would happen."

Fariñas recounted how once he beat Carlson's driver when he found out that his wife might have killed herself while she was locked inside her condominium unit in San Juan.

He said the driver telephoned him to tell him that the alarm at her condominium had sounded but that they could not open the door.

What drove Fariñas to blow his top was that Carlson's driver only informed him about the incident the day after it happened.

"If you were the husband, what would you do? I had to lay my hands on the driver because I am the husband and I am informed about the incident only the next day. She could have been laying down there lifeless throughout the night," he said in Ilocano.

When the door to her condominium was finally opened, Carlson was found sprawled on the floor. She had to be taken to the hospital, Fariñas said.

"At that time, she was uncontrollable. She would bite off her intravenous tubes," he said.

China holiday

Fariñas and his eight children—six by Carlson and two others by a previous live-in partner—were scheduled to visit her Friday night, a month after the family spent a vacation in China.

"That was the last time I saw her. During that trip, I had to buy her a ticket and send her back home because she was turning violent. She was smashing the glasses inside her hotel room," he said.

Carlson's relatives in the United States have been informed about her death and were scheduled to arrive in the country on Sunday.

It isn't clear whether Carlson's parents are still alive. But Fariñas said Carlson did not know her father. "If I were a president's son, I would have married a senator's daughter who can boost my political career and use her. But no, I married her because I know she was deprived of parental love. She doesn't even know who her father is," he said.

Carlson has been living mainly in her condominium unit in San Juan. She came to Laoag City last September to join her husband for his birthday celebration.

She made brief appearances to campaign for her husband in the May elections. Fariñas lost in his reelection bid.

The former congressman, after losing his reelection bid, said he now devotes his time taking personal care of his children. Carlson's six children, five boys and a girl, are all staying with Fariñas.

His aide said Fariñas personally drives his children to school.

Women's groups

Gabriela, a national alliance of women's organizations, expressed grief over Carlson's death and called for an immediate and impartial investigation.

In a press statement, Deputy Secretary General Emmi de Jesus said that, should it be proven that there was foul play or that Carlson had been driven to commit suicide by unbearable conditions in her life, "the perpetrator must be punished."

Carlson had sought the help of Gabriela in 1995, claiming she was being physically and psychologically abused by Fariñas. The couple, however, reconciled later.

Carolina Ruiz-Austria of the Women's Legal Education, Advocacy and Defense Foundation expressed sympathy over Carlson's fate. "Like other battered women, Teresa no doubt also underwent cycles of depression. Psychologically vulnerable, it was no surprise when she often 'forgave' her abuser no matter how much suffering he inflicted, in exchange for the trappings of 'momentary marital bliss'," Ruiz-Austria said in a statement. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

Fariñas 'drove her to suicide'

(From page A1)

him anymore but he certainly did not do it alone. He would not have grown into this kind of monster if the people around him did not tolerate his cruelty," Sarabia said.

Sarabia said that since 1996, when Carlson last asked help to be rescued, she must have endured horrible pain.

"That proves how strong she was, she was able to keep herself alive for five years," she said.

Carlson is the classic story illustrating the "battered wife syndrome," Sarabia said, for which, she added, there is no recourse to the law in the Philippines.

Carlson first came to the attention of the public when she won the Binibining Pilipinas Miss Young International title in 1979. Like most beauty queens, she later joined show business and became a mainstay of the television sitcom, "Chicks to Chicks."

Her signature comedy was the contrast between her sexy looks and *mali-mali* way with the Filipino language.

In fact, Carlson was better known as "*Si ako, si Ikaw*," for the way her sitcom character spoke.

Carlson also went on to do movies and starred with the likes of action king Fernando Poe Jr. and ace comedian Dolphy.

Text messages

On Thursday night, young actress Gladys Reyes received several messages from Carlson. One of the messages read, "Help me, I'm dying. My house is burning."

Carlson sent Reyes a number, which she asked the latter to call. However, when Reyes dialed it, the number turned out to be that of a Malacañang telephone.

Reyes later asked Carlson's show business friend, Carmi Martin, to call up Carlson.

Martin and Carlson co-starred in "Chicks to Chicks."

But when Martin called up Platinum Condominium, a security guard told her there was no fire in the building.

Former Miss International Melanie Marquez, who won in the Binibining Pilipinas pageant the same year as Carlson, remembers the latter as very sweet, thoughtful and *malambing*.

"We were roommates during the pageant and she was fun to be with, always smiling, always happy, very *cariñosa* and never troublesome," Marquez told the INQUIRER.

She added: "Years later, whenever we would see each other, Teresa would always embrace me and tell me we look(ed) alike."

Phone calls

Kalakasan's relationship with Carlson began in 1993 when she made anonymous phone calls to its hotline. Over the next three years, Kalakasan helped Carlson seek safe shelter but Fariñas always managed to find her. An escape try was hatched in October 1996, when Carlson was about to give birth to her fourth child, but it failed.

Sarabia didn't hear of her again until she was awakened yesterday morning with text messages saying Carlson had leaped to her death.

Carlson's neighbors described the former actress as a lonely, troubled woman who was alternately sweet and rude to them and the administration staff of the residential condominium building.

She jumped to her death yesterday from the air well of the 23rd floor of the building. Witnesses said Carlson's fall was broken when her body got stuck on a structure on the third floor of the building. She did not land on the parking lot, which is in the basement of the building.

Residents of the building said Carlson had attempted to kill herself a few times in the past.

Although Carlson had been living in the building for almost 10 years, her neighbors said they only had a nodding acquaintance with the actress, who had gained a lot of weight since her sitcom days, when they saw her inside the elevator. The few who had been invited inside Carlson's unit said the actress' flat was unkempt and that she had no food in her refrigerator.

But Carlson was often a subject of speculation among the residents and the guards of the building, who said that they would sometimes hear her screams piercing through closed doors in the middle of the night.

Some said they felt sorry for her, especially after she came out in the media a few years ago with her revelation that she was a battered wife and was hooked on drugs. She eventually retracted her statements, but her neighbors said they would always recall the stories every time they heard her scream.

Friend's advice

Marquez said she had the chance to advise Carlson to leave Fariñas after news reports broke out that Carlson was a battered wife.

"She was able to escape at that time and we had a chance to talk so I told her: if a man starts hitting you, there should be no more reason to still live with him, not even if you have kids," Marquez said.

"She was like a sister to me. It's just so sad what happened to her. She really fell in love with that man."

Carlson's remains were flown to Laoag via Philippine Airlines at 12:30 p.m. yesterday.

INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David had written on Oct. 19, 1996 about how Carlson returned once again to Fariñas after asking to be "rescued" by Kalakasan.

In her column, David wrote about how a woman who did not want to give her identity started calling the Kalakasan hotline on domestic violence sometime in 1993.

At first, she said, the Kalakasan counselors would hear nothing but sobbing and moaning.

Months later, the woman began to tell of a "horrifying story of battering at the hands of her husband."

She still refused to give her and her husband's name.

It was in 1995 when she finally revealed that she was Carlson, wife of then Governor Fariñas.

Kalakasan was only able to get in touch with Carlson's only known next-of-kin, her sister Gidget, and refer her to a lawyer when they learned she had flown to the US where the rest of her family lives.

Kalakasan, which stands for Kababaihan Laban sa Karahasan Foundation, thought she had finally won her freedom.

But on Sept. 30, Carlson phoned to say she was in Manila and staying at the Fariñas building in Sampaloc and was about to give birth to her sixth child.

She said her husband had gone to Ilocos and she was thinking of making her escape and would Kalakasan help her?

Turned down

Sarabia recalled that the first thing they did was look for a shelter.

But The Haven, a women's crisis center run by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Alabang, turned them down.

Sarabia told David that the DSWD had told them that "it is not possible for us at this time to get involved because her husband is a government official and The Haven is being run by the government."

Sarabia recalled how they sought help from the Church, the media and the government, especially the office of then Sen. Leticia Shahani who was leaving for New York.

It was only Sr. Mary John Mananzan of St. Scholastica's College who agreed to give her shelter.

But meantime, Carlson had second thoughts and suggested she might just wait after giving birth to escape.

She however agreed to write a "letter of appeal" for help to Kalakasan, which some staffers posing as Carlson fans delivered to the Fariñas compound.

Sarabia said they concocted various escape plans over the next few days but Carlson got cold feet and hesitated.

On Oct. 10, 1996, a day before Fariñas was to return from Ilocos Norte, Carlson called up Kalakasan and said she would leave the building after everyone had gone to bed.

Shortly after 11 p.m., she emerged from the building without being detected by guards who were distracted by a group of Kalakasan women who created a ruckus nearby as a diversion.

Now safely in her hiding place, Carlson dismayed her rescuers when she called up her husband in Ilocos telling him not to bother looking for her "because I've left you."

The following morning, Carlson got in touch with her stepfather and insisted on leaving the shelter by herself for an interview with GMA-7's Probe Team.

After the interview, she insisted on being taken to the UST hospital to have her baby delivered by her old doctor.

It was there that her husband found her.

Nur used 'bribed outsiders,' says rival

(From page A1)

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. is currently in Malaysia, to attend the funeral of the Malaysian king.

After the briefing, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said, "We have already coordinated with Malaysian authorities. They will help us effect the arrest of Misuari and to turn him over in case he's there."

He said Malaysia will also not allow Misuari to escape to a third country, reportedly Saudi Arabia.

"We also have a relationship with Saudi Arabia. Misuari is not the only one who has a relationship with them. They are reasonable people," Golez said.

The Philippines does not have extradition treaties with Indonesia or Malaysia.

Indonesia chairs the Organization of Islamic Conference's Committee of the Eight, which monitors the implementation of the 1996 peace pact between the government and the MNLF.

The President had immediately convened a security meeting in Malacañang after she arrived from the US around dawn yesterday to discuss measures undertaken to capture Misuari.

She was briefed by Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita.

Opposition plan

In La Trinidad, Benguet, Sen. Edgardo Angara said the President was not to blame for Misuari's rebellion, and said the opposition was offering her a five-year Mindanao peace plan.

The peace plan is actually deposed President Joseph Estrada's "Mindanao Agenda," which allocated P4 billion for the island's restoration, modernization and social engineering in the wake of last year's "all-out-war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main Moro separatist movement in Mindanao.

The plan was put together in November 2000, but was waylaid by the impeachment trial that eventually led to Estrada's ouster.

The plan, Angara said, could cushion the military campaign now being waged against Misuari and support a diplomatic offensive against terrorism and extremism.

Angara said the government would then end up spending far less than what three administrations had spent to develop Mindanao.

"(Misuari's rebellion) is (the result of) the inertia that governments of all kinds have been guilty of in (their treatment) of Muslims."

Angara said Ms Macapagal should take the opposition's offer in good faith, and advised Malacañang not to be "distracted" by last week's controversy between opposition and administration senators.

Angara was referring to the opposition's unsuccessful attempt to unseat Senate President Franklin Drilon.

More troops

About 1,500 more soldiers set sail for Jolo the other day to join the battle against Misuari's forces, as authorities prepared for Monday's ARMM elections.

The three infantry battalions in full battle gear left Zamboanga City aboard transport ships on Friday.

About 5,000 soldiers backed by bomber aircraft and artillery are already on the island.

The battalions were deployed to join pursuit operations against Misuari's followers in Jolo as well as to guard polling stations ahead of the elections, officials said.

"Keep your eyes open and always put your fingers on the trigger. Keep alive," deputy southern command chief Colonel Francisco Gudani told the soldiers in a sendoff ceremony at the naval port in Zamboanga City.

Amid the tension, election officials said elections for Misuari's successor were onstream.

But Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco said recent fighting has displaced thousands of people in the region and fear of more clashes will likely keep turnout low among the 1.1 million eligible voters.

The elections are to be held in the provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Sulu, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and in Marawi City.

Canceled passport

Malacañang has ordered the DFA to cancel Misuari's passport to make any travel abroad illegal.

Manila has asked the "foreign affairs (department) to cancel his passport so that his mobility will be (hampered)," Interior Secretary Joey Lina told reporters.

The PNP has also dispatched a team led by PNP Chief Supt. Ahkmad Omar to serve the arrest warrant.

If Misuari resists arrest, "he will be dealt with accordingly," said Golez.

"We are prepared for that. That's why a team has been set up already. But if he wants to make it complicated . . . ," he said, trailing off.

Malacañang won't entertain backdoor negotiations for Misuari's surrender.

"At this time, backchanneling is not necessary because he's a government official. He should come out in the open. There can not be (any) surreptitious discussions here, Golez said.

Ways to effect Misuari's arrest "are part of what was discussed and is being discussed with Malaysia. But there are many options," Ms Macapagal said when asked how the arrest warrant against Misuari would be served.

Malacañang said it was not yet confirmed whether Misuari has indeed fled to Sabah, Malaysia, as the military reported. Ms Macapagal said Misuari was "possibly" still in Jolo, Sulu.

More trouble

Hussin said the MNLF also believes Misuari is still out hiding in Jolo and not in Sabah, as indicated by military intelligence reports.

He did not discount the possibility that Misuari could still "make trouble as anyone determined to make trouble can."

But he expressed confidence that the MNLF would stand united to oppose any illegal and criminal initiatives by Misuari and that the government itself would contain Misuari's threats.

He added that the MNLF was still willing to take Misuari back "if he reforms, adheres to the line of the majority and speaks according to the laws."

"Why not, if he reforms?" Hussin said. "But to undertake such criminal acts, and in this holy month (Ramadan) yet, that is beyond forgiving."

"We are willing to reconcile with him but not to trust him to lead our people. We were miserable under his leadership," he lamented.

Cabatangan complex

Military officials also said Misuari supporters continue to control the Cabatangan complex in Zamboanga City and have refused to leave.

Two army batallions have encircled the area and placed road blocks, while civilians have fled the vicinity.

The rebels have entrenched themselves at an ARMM office in the complex and were reported to have occupied abandoned homes.

"They say they have the right to be there because Cabatangan is the seat of the ARMM government. Misuari placed them there so we are trying (to persuade them to leave)," Gudani said.

Presidential adviser for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said the rebel group had lost contact with Misuari and could be considered a "lost command group" operating on its own.

They can undertake "sporadic actions but we do not expect any major development, major actions that they can take against government," national security adviser Golez said in Manila.

With reports from Julie S. Alipala, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Juliet Javellana, Gerald Lacuarta and Cynthia Balana in Manila; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AFP and AP

Nida Blanca case: NBI in, PNP out

(From page A1)

morning, flailing his arms and pounding on tables before collapsing on the floor still shouting.

"I don't know Mr. Strunk," Medel screamed at one point. "I don't know him. He is innocent. Look at my hands! I can't endure the pain. Kill me! Kill me!"

Outside the DOJ building, an elated Strunk addressed reporters after being informed of Medel's retraction: "It's a big relief. I know that nobody will believe that idiot."

Strunk also maintained his innocence, said he would pray for those persecuting him, and appealed to the media to "be careful."

But President Macapagal-Arroyo is keeping a hands-off attitude toward Medel's retraction and claim of torture.

Asked yesterday at her press conference whether sanctions would be imposed on concerned officials, the President said: "We will wait for the results of the investigation."

She said the same thing when it was pointed out that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Interior Secretary Jose Lina were at the Nov. 19 press conference wherein the PNP presented Medel to the media and announced that the Blanca murder has been solved.

She also said that in her talk earlier with PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, they did not discuss the details of the case, particularly Medel's retraction.

In a brief talk with reporters after her press conference, the President hinted that the PNP might have been pressured into presenting Medel.

"We have to feed the beast," she said without elaborating.

The President had commended the PNP for cracking the murder case while on her nine-day working visit to the United States and Mexico.

'Torture marks'

At the NBI headquarters, doctors checked if the marks on Medel's body were caused by torture. The results of the examination are expected on Monday.

Wycoco said his men would still have to get the permission of Medel's lawyers before they subject him to psychiatric or drug tests.

An NBI investigator said the marks on Medel's feet and arms were torture marks.

Medel himself showed the marks—healed wounds on the wrists, two on the right arm and one on the left arm, and healed abrasions on both elbows—to reporters and said he was forced to confess to killing Blanca.

He said he was abducted "on Nov. 15 or 16" and then subjected to electric shock and the "water cure," and then injected with drugs.

Planning to sue PNP officers

Medel said he was planning to sue PNP chief Mendoza, Director Nestorio Gualberto, and "other generals and colonels."

"They injected something in my nape," he said. "Then they electrified me through my feet and then my genitals. (The torture) was more than three hours. That was unimaginable!"

He said he was blindfolded and cigarette smoke was blown into his face during his investigation.

Medel said the police also snipped off bits of his moustache and his nails, which he feared might have been planted at the crime scene.

"They were also looking for my past cases. They were even threatening to link me to the Corbito-Dacer murder," Medel said, referring to the killing last year of publicist Bubby Dacer and his driver.

Threats

Medel said he could not come out earlier about the alleged torture because the police had threatened to harm him and his family.

"If I told the truth then, they might have slid me into a drum and dumped me somewhere. My family would have no body to mourn," he said, adding:

"When I was presented (at the press conference), someone was holding me and telling me that if I said anything out of line, (those who will kill) my children were just a phone call away."

Medel added that whenever Sen. Panfilo Lacson criticized the PNP investigation of the case, his alleged torturers pushed him even more to stick to his confession.

"I knew that I would die then. I would not bring innocent people with me to my grave," he said.

Wycoco, however, warned the public against making premature judgments about the case.

He said everyone should wait for the results of the medico-legal tests to confirm if Medel was indeed tortured.

Wycoco said there would be no reinvestigation of the case because "the investigation hasn't even been finished."

"We have also had cases of witnesses who retracted their statements and then in the end it turned out that they were telling the truth," he said.

Wycoco assured Medel's family that he would be safe in the NBI, but said he would not get special protection.

'Handcuff marks'

Gualberto, head of Task Force Marsha, said he had explained to the PNP chief that Medel was not tortured while in the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group which he heads.

"I told him that there was no abduction or torture," Gualberto said at a 2 p.m. press briefing. He was summoned by Mendoza shortly after the morning broadcast of Medel's recantation.

Gualberto presented physicians Georgia Regalado and Marietta Tantioco-Tan of the PNP General Hospital to deny Medel's claim of torture.

"I only saw handcuff marks on both wrists. Other than those, there were no other injuries," Tan said when asked if she saw torture marks on Medel's body when he was brought to the hospital Wednesday night.

Medel was taken there after complaining of abdominal pains. He was subjected to X-ray and urine tests.

Gualberto himself disputed Medel's claim, saying the latter "freely executed" his 10-page sworn statement in the presence of his lawyer after he "surrendered" to authorities in the morning of Nov. 18.

In earlier interviews, Gualberto said investigators had talks with Medel to convince him to turn himself in, and that after he decided to yield, he was picked up "at a designated place" on that day.

Confession in question

Senior Supt. Jesus Versoza, task force chief investigator, admitted that Medel's recantation would "put his confession in question."

Supt. Ericson Velasquez, another investigator, said Medel's credibility was now in question because of his retraction.

"If you can just imagine that a person can admit the killing, perhaps you will not be surprised that the same person will recant the statement," he said.

Both Versoza and Velasquez said they were not discarding Medel's statement just because he had retracted it.

"We're not eradicating the document that he swore to. Still, we'll consider this affidavit for further investigation," said Versoza, adding:

"We will further check (the relevance of Medel's testimony). We will consider all facts that might have a bearing on the conduct of the investigation."

Gualberto sought to downplay Medel's retraction, saying Task Force Marsha would press ahead with its investigation.

"This is not a setback in the investigation," he said. "Remember that we have announced that the testimony is only 25 percent of the investigation. I've told you before that we are still pursuing other angles."

But Gualberto admitted that so far, the task force had no other evidence to pin down Medel as Blanca's killer apart from his confession.

"We don't have the results yet of the forensic examination," he said when asked if the task force had other physical evidence to show that Medel killed the actress.

A paring knife and the clothes that Medel allegedly used during the killing have been submitted for DNA testing. The results will be known two weeks from now.

'I am a victim'

At the DOJ preliminary investigation, Medel shocked state prosecutors and members of the media when he faced TV cameras and raised his hands, saying: "Look at my hands! I can't stand the electricity anymore. I know I will die. My only sin is that I wasn't able to endure the pain. Look at my arms! I am a victim of political struggle. I don't know Strunk. I was abducted!"

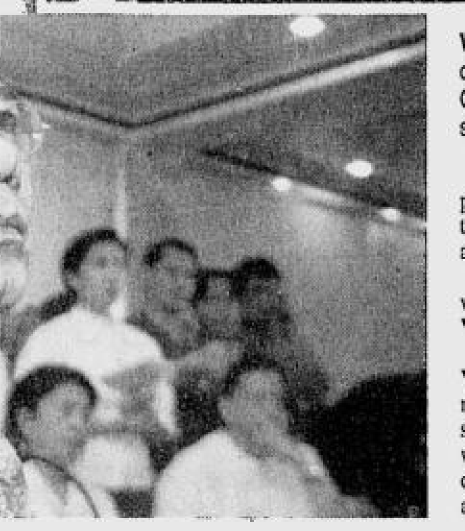
SCENES FROM A DRAMA played out at the Department of Justice:

I'M A victim of a political struggle.

ERIK ARAZAS

ENOUGH of this. I don't know Strunk.

ALLEGEDLY tortured for three hours by the police—and shows the wounds to prove it.



WHAT'S going on? CIDG chief Director Nestorio Gualberto is in a state of shock. JOAN BONDOC

State Prosecutor Velasco told reporters that "Mr. Strunk is cleared at this point as far as Medel's allegations are concerned."

"We can't do anything if the main witness is retracting his statement," Velasco added.

With no witness to speak of, Velasco said the DOJ would "soon dismiss the case" against Strunk. But he said he expected Wycoco to "come up with his agency's own investigation" of the case, including new witnesses and suspects.

Medel was calm before the hearing started about 9:45 a.m. at the DOJ's third-floor conference room.

Velasco, together with State Prosecutor Irwin Maraya, opened the hearing by explaining that a preliminary investigation was "generally inquisitorial."

"A preliminary investigation serves not only the purpose of the state," he said. "More importantly, it is a part of the guarantees of freedom and fair play, which are the birthright of all who live in the country. We will determine the merits of this case based only on the evidence presented before this body."

Just 10 minutes after the session started, Alma Fernandez Mallonga, counsel for Strunk, complained to the panel that she was seated beside Medel, who, she pointed out, was accusing her client.

As if on cue, Medel rose from his seat and tore a copy of his affidavit. Then he raised his arms, showing a rosary, and shouted: "Enough of this! I don't know Strunk. He is innocent!"

Medel's lawyer Roberto Omandam tried but failed to pacify him as he cursed the police.

Omandam then moved to have Medel transferred to the custody of the NBI, which Velasco allowed.

With Medel still agitated, Velasco ordered a five-minute break.

When the session resumed, Medel was still hysterical. Velasco then noted that Medel appeared to have recanted his affidavit by his "demeanor."

"It is on record that Mr. Medel is retracting his statement," Velasco said.

But Omandam objected, saying Medel was not in his right mind to say so.

"But it is made on record that Medel is retracting his statement," said Velasco.

Healing

Strunk said he hoped that Medel's retraction might be "the beginning of the healing process," but issued the reminder that his wife's killer was still at large.

Reporters rushed to interview the *barong*-clad Strunk when he showed up about 10:30 a.m. at the DOJ gate with lawyer Dennis Manalo of the Siguion Reyna law office.

Manalo said his client had been ready to file his counter-affidavit but was prevented by what happened.

"It was a terrible crime committed," Strunk told reporters. "I am standing by the affidavit I made. I committed no crime. But the investigation will continue. We will plan our next course of action."

The American asked the public to pray for Medel "and all the others that believed in him in accusing me of this horrendous crime."

He added: "This to me is an answer, a divine answer, from my Lord and Savior.

"It is a complete shock to me that this man broke down and admitted that he has lied, and even apologized for putting all this pressure . . . on my family. We were torn apart by this. And hopefully this can just be the beginning of the healing process. But let me tell you this: My wife's murderer is still alive and somewhere."

But certain senators are unimpressed.

"I think everything is scripted," said Sen. Vicente Sotto. "(Medel's) acting at the Department of Justice when he recanted his confession could earn him a Famas (best actor citation)."

Sotto said he was surprised to hear Strunk telling reporters that he was "overjoyed" at Medel's retraction.

"Where can you find a husband overjoyed despite the fact that he had just lost his wife?" the senator said.

Sotto also said he was convinced that Strunk had knowledge of the murder and that the American was the only logical suspect.

Sen. Francisco Pangilinan, a criminal lawyer, said Medel's retraction should be thoroughly evaluated in light of the fact that his first confession was taken under oath.

"We are caught between determining which is the statement that should be believed and which is the statement that should be set aside," he said.

Pangilinan cautioned the people against rushing to judgment as far as Strunk's guilt or innocence and Medel's credibility were concerned.

"In fact, the Supreme Court has ruled that we should take a recantation with a grain of salt because the testimony of a witness may be influenced one way or another," he said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Medel's second statement did not necessarily negate his first statement of admission of participation in the crime.

"I don't think (Strunk) is off the hook. He remains a suspect, at the very least," Drilon said.

Lacson cautioned the PNP against totally accepting the statement of any confessed killer.

"It was very unusual that a self-confessed professional killer presented himself to the police saying he was bothered by his conscience," Lacson said, adding:

"The PNP and the DOJ must apologize to Mr. Rod Strunk and the other persons who were hurt by their show biz investigation." ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana***

Medel family fears for life

MEMBERS of Phillip Medel's family are in fear for their lives.

His wife, Souvenia Dolores "Arby" Medel, 43, yesterday said that even before his retraction, they had been getting death threats through text messages saying they would be "the next" if nothing good turned up in the Blanca case.

She said this was why she and their four children did not push through with their plan to go to Manila and join Medel.

"We fear that the people behind the death threats will get back at us," Arby said over TV Patrol-Cebu.

Regina Medel, wife of Medel's elder brother Agustin, said she suspected that Medel would be killed because of his retraction. "After this, I doubt if he will still be able to stay alive or return to Cebu," Regina said.

She said she believed that Medel was forced by the police to confess something he had not done, without knowing the implications, because he thought that his friends in the government would defend him.

The family dismissed talks that Medel was mentally ill, saying he had no such medical history.

But in Quezon City, Medel's landlady Norma Sideco said he could not have been tortured by the police into admitting to the crime, or at least not before he was arrested on Sunday.

Sideco, owner of Medel's apartment on Kamias Road, described the arrest conducted by Task Force Marsha as "very peaceful."

"There was no resistance on Medel's part," Sideco told the INQUIRER in an interview. "The police did not have to force him to come with them. People were practically talking in whispers."

She said about 20 policemen arrived at the Sideco Apartments about 8:30 p.m. Sunday and took in Medel in the presence of officials from Barangays West Kamias and Pinyahan.

"Medel came out and surrendered peacefully," Sideco said. "In fact, only his right wrist was handcuffed, as his right hand was holding the plastic bag that contained the clothes he was supposedly wearing during the killing."

The apartment that Medel and two others occupied was a *"bodega"* until it was leased to retired Gen. Galileo Kintanar, who converted it first into an office and then into a residential unit. ***Reports from Kathy I. Navarro, Debra Jane Magallon, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Agnes E. Donato in Manila***

Ex-general admits link to Medel, but denies role in murder

(From page A1)

to 1991, described Medel as "a friend of the intelligence organization."

"In our game, we know a lot of people," he said. "You may call them assets, sources, but they are all friends. This is normal in this business."

But there are other things that Kintanar appears to be involved in.

A ranking official of the Department of Justice yesterday told the INQUIRER that Medel was just a fall guy in the Blanca murder.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that with Medel's retraction, the DOJ and the National Bureau of Investigation were looking at the possible link between Blanca's death and the alleged illegal disbursement of funds at the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, where the actress served as a member.

The official also said the DOJ wanted to establish if both Blanca and another show biz personality had links with Kintanar, who is allegedly involved in casino financing.

"It appeared that this general loans money to casino players," the official said, adding that the retired general was paying the rent for Medel's apartment.

Medel's landlady, Norma Sideco, has also confirmed this.

The official said most of the people involved in the planning of Blanca's killing were now "covering up for each other because they will all benefit from either the MTRCB funds or the *mana* (inheritance)."

He said Medel's retraction at the start of the DOJ's preliminary investigation was part of a "well scripted" plan to mislead investigators.

Close-knit

Kintanar claims Medel, who hails from Carcar, Cebu, as a distant relative.

"You know Cebuanos, we tend to be close-knit," said Kintanar, a native of Argao in southern Cebu.

He said that in August or September, Medel's "companions" sought his permission to use an apartment that his family was renting in Kamias.

He added that the "group" wanted to rent an apartment but did not want to sign a contract or pay the usual "two months advance, two months deposit" that was required of new tenants.

To help his friends, he said, he agreed to maintain the apartment in his name.

"*Para wala nang kuskus-balungos, doon na sila*," Kintanar said. "So they took over and paid the rent."

But as far as the records were concerned, he said, the apartment was still rented by him.

Kintanar said he never saw or heard from the "group" again, until Monday when Medel went public with his alleged role in the Blanca murder.

He said he merely laughed about it, "but later on, *sumosobra na* (too much) *ang* speculation," he said, adding that he was in a hospital when he heard the news.

Kintanar said he was diagnosed with Bell's palsy two months ago.

The ailment has caused his face, tongue and other parts of his body to twist. In fact, he had difficulty talking in the interview with the INQUIRER.

In the May elections, Kintanar ran as a sectoral representative under the party-list system. He would have represented the Marcos Loyalists, but the party was disqualified because it did not represent a marginalized sector. The Commission on Elections categorized the party as a "cult."

'Old-school warrior'

Highly secretive, Kintanar is respected in the intelligence community. Young officers describe him as "one of the old-school warriors," and he was known to "disappear into the wall."

As Isafp chief Kintanar never gave interviews but knew all the reporters' names and faces. He was known among journalists as "elusive as an eel," and was identified through his bush jacket.

In his first and only interview with this reporter after the December 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration, Kintanar answered questions in a roundabout way.

When pressed for answers, he just laughed and warned this reporter: "Some patriots are pulling your leg."

Last February, Kintanar, who has been writing books on the military, was said to have "surfaced" along with other former Isafp chiefs to "protest" the appointment of Col. Victor Corpus to the highest Isafp post.

It turned out that Kintanar did not sign the manifesto. But the other retired Isafp chiefs maintained that he opposed Corpus' appointment.

"Kintanar said Corpus is a good officer," one of the retired chiefs said. "He will make a good battalion commander, a good brigade commander, maybe even the best Army commanding general. But he is not fit to be Isafp chief."

Another source, however, said Kintanar was involved in the "search for the Marcos treasure."

The source, also an intelligence officer, warned this reporter that the "Ador Mawanay-Vic Corpus exposé" was designed by Kintanar to divert public attention from a grand effort to recover the Marcos money.

Curiously, a colonel from Isafp also tipped off INQ7.net about a possible lead in the Blanca murder.

In a text message sent Wednesday, the officer called this reporter's attention to a blind item in Malaya titled "Perfect Timing" and written by A.P. Macasaet.

The item said the Medel expose was designed to soften the impact of the "editorial value" of the Supreme Court decision on the plunder law.

Lyceum, Assisi NCRAA winners

GAMES TODAY (PMI Gym)
8 a.m.—Olivarez vs Colegio de San Lazaro (Jrs.)
9:30 a.m.—SFACS vs New Era U. (Jrs.)
11 a.m.—Rizal Technological U. vs De La Salle Zobel (Jrs.)
12:30 p.m.—Emilio Aguinaldo College vs AMACC (women's)
2 p.m.—CDSL vs De La Salle-Dasmariñas (Women's)
3:30 p.m.—Lyceum vs University of Asia and the Pacific (Women's)
5 p.m.—National College of Business and Arts vs AMACC (Srs.)

LYCEUM survived a second half scare while defending champion St. Francis of Assisi experienced little trouble against opening day rivals as the ninth season of the National Capital Region Athletic Association basketball tournament opened with a festive air yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Pirates made it to the win column after relying solely on free throws following a rash of fouls in the final two minutes to upend host Olivarez College, 90-76.

The Doves of St. Francis towered over an undersized Philippine Maritime Institute cast, 81-61, in the first two games of this tournament supported by Pagcor, Mikasa, Splash, Pepsi-Cola and DAR.

Gary David, who plays for Montaña in the Philippine Basketball League, led the Intramuros-based Pirates with 21 points but they could not have made it on top without the key markers of Dennis Rodriguez, who scored eight of his 18 points in the fourth quarter.

It was smooth sailing for the Pirates, who led by as many as 19 points (59-40) midway in the third quarter and by 15 (66-51) going into the last 10 minutes when Olivarez's Bobby Barnson Bong De Guzman and Melvin Sto. Domingo made one final assault. They were able to chip the gap to just seven points at 73-80, 1:30 left.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Jaime Recio shot down 192 birds in the trap event to break the 1991 SEAG mark of Manuel Valdes III (186) in the eliminations for the 1993 Singapore SEAG at the PSC range in Ft. Bonifacio. Also today in 1989, Reynaldo "Rocky" Balboa scored a referee stopped contest (RSC) over American titlist William Clay Jenkins in their featherweight bout to keep the Philippines' bid alive in the 1st Mayor's Cup international boxing championship at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Santos tops architects at Sta. Elena

ARCHITECT Elmer Santos emerged the overall champion in the recent 10'b Annual Architects' Golf Classic after gaining a net 41 in the Stableford scoring system at Sta. Elena,

The event drew 313 participants, exceeding last year's record of 292.

The feat will put Santos in the rank of champions inscribed in the Architects' Golf Classic perpetual glass trophy designed by famous architect sculptor Ramon Orlina.

For his take home prize, architect Santos was awarded an individual trophy, an Ocean Conqueror Buler Swiss Watch and an 1 8-speed mountain bike.

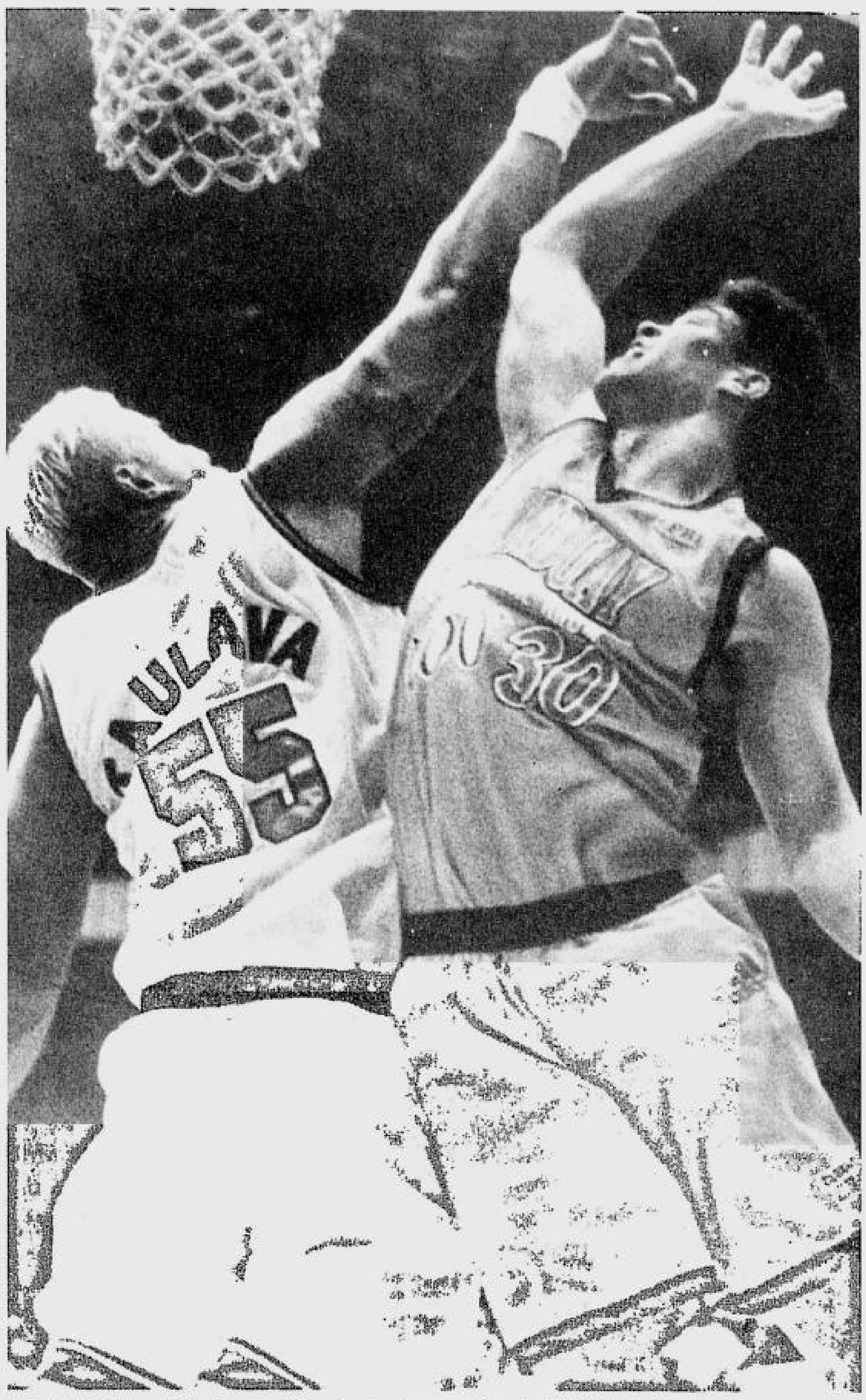
Architect Marty Ilagan successfully defended his two-year dominance in the low gross category with a record 3-over par. The feat earned him an individual trophy, a Sea Legend Buler Swiss Watch and an 18-speed mountain bike.

Group honors went to Cord Guanco, Class A; Tristan Calixto, Class B; Francis Santaromana, Class C; Ramon Mendoza, Class D; JP Reyes, Sponsors' Group; and Sarah Jane Esguerra, Guests' Group.

Valuable prizes worth more than half a million prizes were raffled off during the awarding with no less than Paul Ung, president of Boysen Paints and main sponsor of the event, handing out the prizes. Likewise, Delta Faucet Company, headed by country manager Billy Francisco, added fun to the awarding with the launching of their Valkyrie faucet line.

ALAXAN BET

Ding Vitug of the Belair golf team does a jig after missing a short putt. The popular village golf series launched 10 years ago to promote friendship among village golfers was won by the Greenhills 1 golf team with Magallanes, BF Homes and Corinthian emerging champions of Divisions A, B and C.



MENK (right) and Taulava battling for ball possession in this file photo.

Safety, security measures in Fil-Am

SAFETY and security measures are being arranged in preparation for the staging of the 52nd Fil-Am Men's International Amateur Golf Tournament at Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club in Baguio City.

The Fil-Am Golf Tournament is an annual event held in the city and is acknowledged by Guinness Book as the oldest and biggest amateur event in the world.

Governor Raul Molintas, Representative Mauricio Domogan and Mayor Bernardo Vergara are personally overseeing the plans of the City Government.

"We want to make sure that everything is in order. The players and guests will have a worry-free golfing holiday during the tournament," said Fil-Am overall coordinator Shean Bedi.

Seven hundred golfers will see action in the 72-hole tournament, dubbed as the biggest in the world by the Guinness Book of World Records, which is being sponsored by Smart-Sony Ericsson, College Assurance Plan, and John Hay Poro Point Development. An additional 300 VIPs, media, and guests are expected to join the event.

Her excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former president Fidel V. Ramos are invited to grace the ceremonial tee-off with Molintas, Domogan and Vergara.

There will be a team captains' meeting on Dec. 1 and a Wild West Party on Dec. 4 at the newly constructed Camp John Jay Manor Hotel.

Wilson Sports, EVA Air and Mizuno have prepared exciting hole-in-one prizes. San Miguel and Premiere Wines, on the other hand, will provide all the parties with the best beer and wines, respectively.

Asi, Menk to join RP tryouts

By June Navarro

ALTHOUGH the tryouts for the PBA-backed national team to next year's Asian Games is still more than a month away, some of the league's top players have already expressed their desire to play for flag and country.

PBA Executive Director Sonny Barrios said Asi Taulava of Talk N Text, Tanduay's Eric Menk and Don Don Hontiveros, and Alaska's John Arigo have signified their intentions of joining the national team, which will compete in Pusan, South Korea against Asia's best next year.

"They were upbeat. In fact, Asi even went out of his way just to check with the Commissioner's Office the calendar for the Asiad preparation," said Barrios.

The four cagers were in the company of PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino and Barrios attending the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu City yesterday when they gave affirmation to the open tryouts to be held on Jan. 3-Feb. 3.

"It would be an honor to represent this country to show where my heart is," said Taulava, who was hounded by citizenship problems last year.

"There are a lot of sacrifices needed to join the national team and I'm willing to take those risks," added the 6-foot-6 Menk.

Taulava said he would plunge to a personal conditioning program as the 6-foot-9 slotman intends to beef up by at least 10 pounds in order to fare better against bigger and heftier foes in the league.

"By opening the tryouts to everybody, we can determine the players who are hell-bent on joining the national team," said Barrios.

He added the league is expecting a huge turnout in the tryouts as aspirants from the MBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA are also welcome.

Bata's hot streak continues

EFREN "Bata" Reyes continued his winning ways on the fist two days of the 34th All Japan Championship in Amagasaki City, beating his Japanese opponents comfortably in both matches.

Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat also remained unbeaten but Francisco "Django" Bustamante, a semifinalist in the recent World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland, dropped down to the loser's bracket after being beaten in a close match, 9-8, by Chinese-Taipei's Chen Wei-chih.

In his opening match, Reyes, who won the World Pool League title a week after pocketing the richest purse in pool history by grabbing the Tokyo 9-Ball International title and the top prize of Y4160,000, played scintillating pool to whitewash Akihiro Asakuma 9-0.

On Day 2 of the tournament at the Hotel New Archaic, Reyes, his reputation as "The Magician" enhanced by his recent string of spectacular victories against some of the greatest players in the world, defeated Haruyoshi Hinokiyama, 9-6, to move into the next round along with Luat.

Luat also whipped Japan's Masashi Kiyokawa on opening day, 9-0, before edging another Japanese, Mitsuaki Itsumo, 9-7, in his second match.

The tournament offers a top prize of $15,000.

La Salle, Ateneo golfers score

LA Salle Greenhills and Ateneo de Manila came up with big second round scores yesterday to virtually clinch division crowns in this year's Milo-PJGDA Inter-Schools golf tournament.

The Greenhills bets toured the Philippine Navy Golf Club course with 151 on Kevin Lachica's 54, the 50 of Ron Onglengco and Martin Mediana's 47 to pull away from the race for high school division team honors.

Together with their first-day 146 at Club Intramuros, La Salle has 297 and will start today's final round at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club course with 297 and a 50-point lead over Colegio San Agustin.

Ateneo scored 136 on Judson Eustaquio's 54, the 42 of James Yu and Amado Eustaquio's 40. Combined with their first-round 117, the Ateneans have 260 and 39 points ahead of closest pursuer La Salle Zobel in the grade school division race.

The Zobel bets made 127 to go with their previous 94 for 221.

The Philippine Junior Golf Development Association, in coordination with the Philippine Junior Golf Federation and with the sponsorship of Milo, is conducting the 54-hole event.

All-Jesuit alumni tilt

THE ANNUAL All-Jesuit Schools Alumni Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Canlubang. Organized yearly by the Ateneo Golf Foundation, the tournament is open to all alumni and students of any Jesuit school in the Philippines. This year's format is stroke play with verbally declared handicaps (aptly titled by the organizers as the "We Believe" format). Competition will be in 6 age divisions plus Ladies and Guest divisions. Registration and tee-of time is from 6 a.m. 9 a.m. Leading the list of sponsors for the tournament co-hosted by Ateneo HS Class '76 are Pagcor, Dream TV, American Eyes Institute, Priority Intercon, Metro Manila Skyway, Undersen Windows, Infinit One Productions, Squibb Vitamin E, PLDT Smart, Milagros Farms, Section 4Y, Rey Tang, Rene de Leon and DHL Philippines. For more info, please call the Ateneo Alumni Affairs Office at 426-6081 &82 or email: alumni@admu.edu.ph

Tenpin bowling classic attracts national standouts

NATIONAL team standouts Paulo Valdez and Arianne Cerdeña, and defending champion Angelo Constantino will see action in the second Pepsi-GameworX invitational tenpin bowling classic which will begin Nov. 30 at the StriXe in Festival Supermall.

Joining them in the competition which will be held in Filinvest Alabang in Muntinlupa City are Jonnee Gatchalian, CJ Suarez, Biboy Rivera, Benny Dytoc, Mar Serac and Ellen Ramos, representing the Fiesta Mall, Lipa City.

Irene Garcia, Jojo Canare and Lovelia Catalan, who are also members of the national team, are also taking part in the event which offers P50,000 for the champion.

Philippine Olympic Committee first vice president and Philippine Bowling Congress head Steve Hontiveros will be the guest of honor in the opening ceremony alongside Pepsi VP for Modern Trade Operation, Felix Yu.

"I'm sure that with a star-studded lineup like this, we can expect more exciting action," said GameworX marketing officer in charge Christian Datol. "This early we can say that the project is a success."

A total of P257,000 in prizes will be awarded to the winners up to the 24th placer. Winners will also get merchandise and trophies, while a Game Gold Ring will be awarded to the player who can score a perfect game.

BEACH CHAMPS

Students from the University of San Jose Recoletos topped the student category of the beach volleyball games held in conjunction with the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress. Joining them during the awarding of Smart premium gift packs are sporty Smart models. Smart Communications is a major sponsor of the Ad Congress.

Cebuanos triathlon favorites

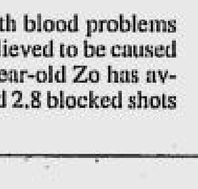
SEASONED Cebuanos Abet Biagan and Amale Mendezona stand as the heavy favorites when the OHM Age Group Triathlon 2001 Series lowers its curtains in Danao City (Cebu) at the end of the month.

Should Biagan and Mendezona live up to their top billing before the home crowd they would crown themselves as the first ever most outstanding male and female age group triathletes.

Biagan, 25, who finished a strong llth in the Singapore International Triathlon last month, currently leads the series sponsored by Viva Mineral Water, Speedo, Danao Telecom, RAMBO, PSC and POC with 285 points over three legs.

Reversal of fortunes

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

HOW the mighty have fallen. The Miami Heat (2-8), New York Knicks (5-8), Utah Jazz (4-8) and Portland Trail Blazers (6-7), NBA championship contenders for the last five years or more, have struggled through the early part of this season and unless a turnaround happens soon, they could find themselves watching the playoffs on television in late April.

A major factor in the four clubs' reversal of fortunes is the rash of injuries that befell their top players.

The Heat, who are mired in a six-game losing streak going into today's home encounter with the Dallas Mavericks, are without the services of two starters. Center Alonzo Mourning, who is already taking medication for a kidney disorder since last season, is sidelined indefinitely with blood problems arising from viral complications believed to be caused by food poisoning. The 6-10, 31-year-old Zo has averaged 17.2 points, 9.4 rebounds and 2.8 blocked shots in five games this campaign.

Heat power forward Brian Grant is on the injured list with a contusion on the instep of his right foot. That means the 6-9 Grant, who has registered averages of 10.0 scores and 5.1 boards in seven appearances, is out of at least five games. Also sidelined are guard Rod Strickland (hamstring injury) and swingman Kendall Gill (broken finger).

Miami mentor Pat Riley, who doubles as the club's president, has been employing a "go game" that features a lot of running and little of his old postup strategy. He has disregarded the halfcourt game that had worked for the Heat in the past.

The extended absence of center Marcus Camby has taken its toll on the Knicks, who host the woeful Chicago Bulls (1-10) tomorrow (Manila time).

Golf cheat wins car with fake hole-in-one

KUALA LUMPUR—A successful conspiracy to fake a hole-in-one and win a car came to light when the golfer failed to pay his accomplice, a report said Friday.

A course marshall told police he had helped fix the "ace" after being promised 50,000 ringgit ($US13,000) if the golfer won the car, worth 180,000 ringgit, the Sun newspaper said.

The marshall, P.P. Kalinathan, said he dropped a ball in the cup on the par-three second hole at the Bukit Unggul Golf and Country Club in Dengkil on May 6 before the golfer reached the tee, the Sun reported.

The golfer moved quickly through the first hole and his three playing partners in the competition were still on the green when they heard his triumphant shout from the second tee.

The golfer claimed he had aced it, and this was confirmed by Kalinathan at the green, standing over the already planted ball.

The golfer received the car, but the cheques he gave Kalinathan bounced, sending the marshall to the police, the Sun reported, without giving details of any planned prosecution. *AFP*

Prost Grand Prix files for bankruptcy

GUYANCOURT, France—Alain Prost said poor results and a bad economic climate pushed his Formula One team to file for bankruptcy Thursday, but vowed it will race in 2002. "We will fight to continue with our enterprise," Prost said in a news conference at Prost Grand Prix headquarters outside Paris. Prost dominated Formula One as a driver for much of the 1980s and early 1990s, but failed to make Prost Grand Prix a success. The team has not won a race in the five seasons since its creation. *AP*

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA Great Alaska Shootout - Gonzaga vs St John's, First Round at 7 a.m. (r), Semifinal #2 at midnight, NIT Basketball Preseason Championship at 5 p.m. and UNLV vs Cincinnati tomorrow at 4:30 a.m. on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff at 8 a.m. (r – 6 p.m.) on Star Sports

NBA – Orlando Magic vs Charlotte Hornets at 8:30 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports and Washington Wizards vs Indiana Pacers at 2:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

PBA SEMIS

Panthers outsteady Realtors, 76-75

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—San Miguel vs Shell
6:10 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Sta. Lucia

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ANTIPOLO CITY—There were no last-minute miracles for Sta. Lucia Realty this time.

Pop Cola made sure of that as the Panthers outlasted the Realtors last night, 76-75, to gain headway in their best-of-five semifinal series in the PBA Governors Cup at the Ynares Center here.

The Panthers activated all the defensive stops against their opponents in the waning moments as the Realtors looked all set to wield another upset.

The Realtors entered the semifinals after scoring a huge come-from-behind 97-93 victory over Batang Red Bull last week in a thrilling affair where the Thunder gave up a 10-point lead in the last three minutes that spelled their doom.

"If we were going to win this series, it has to be on defense. I'm just glad we started on the right foot," said Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Threatened by Paolo Mendoza's snipings that shifted the momentum to the Realtors, the Panthers put their act together and forced Sta. Lucia into costly miscalculations in the last three minutes.

Mendoza fired 9 of his 15 points in the heat of the Realtors' uprising to complement the triple-double performance of Damien Owens, who had 24 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in a no-relief game.

Owens, however, ended the goat as he bungled two crucial free throws in the dying seconds.

Roselle Ellis, who had another spectacular night after his 44-point outburst against Alaska in the quarterfinals, drilled in 25 points as he led four Panthers in double figures.

In the second game, San Miguel Beer marked Danny Seigle's return with an 89-84 victory over Shell to take Game 1 of their best-of-five semifinal series.

Scores:

POP COLA 76—Ellis 25, Hatfield 13, Juinio 11, Morano 10, Ballesteros 5, Asaytono 5, Lastimosa 5, Bolado 2, Antonio 0.

STA. LUCIA 75—Owens 24, Espino 18, Mendoza 15, Aquino 13, Francisco 5, Belano 0, Ortiguerra 0, Adriano 0.

Quarters: 23-18, 35-28, 60-52, 76-75

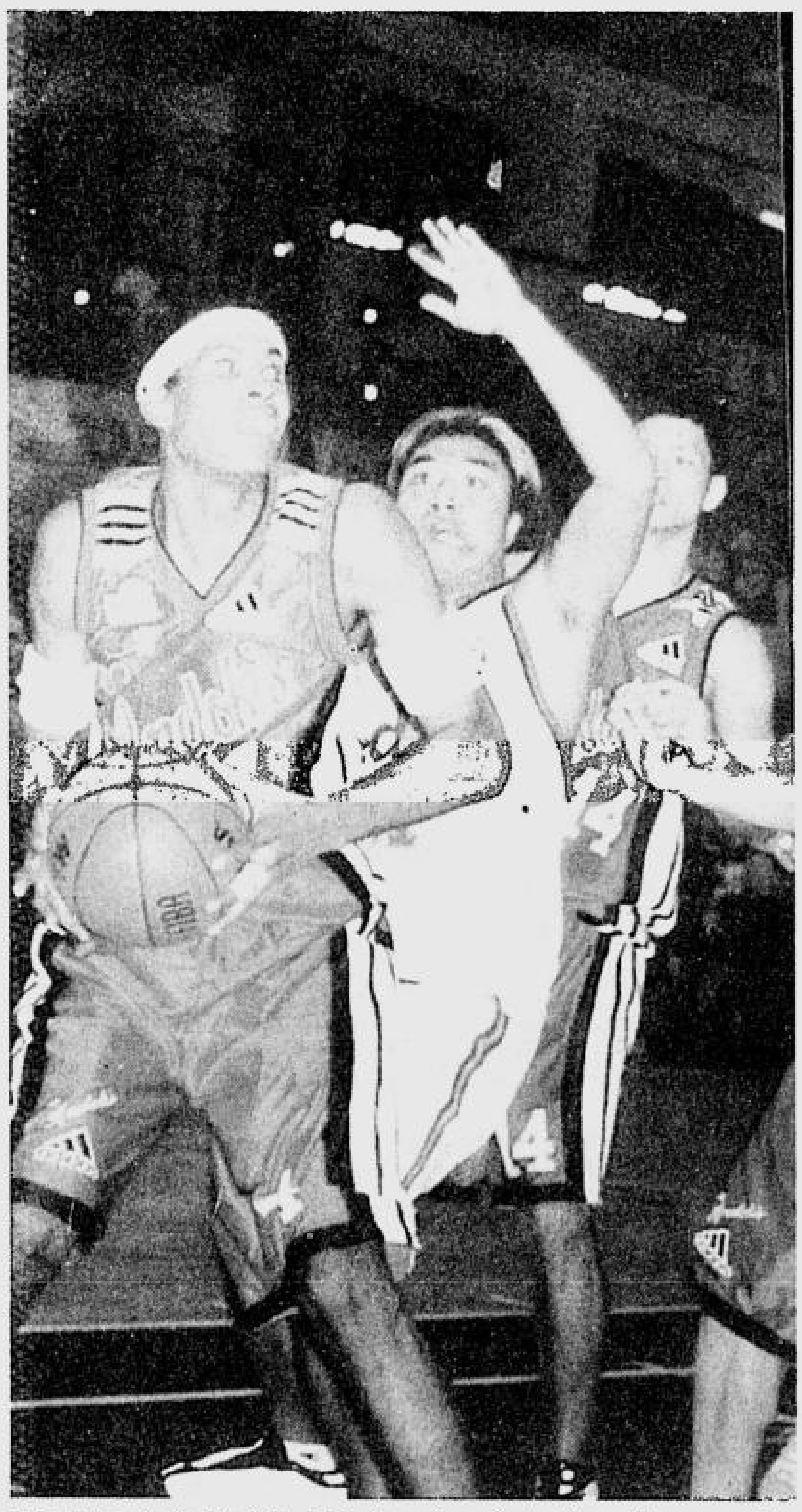
Greatest Games

BILLY Ray Bates is regarded by many as the all-time, most exciting import in the PBA. He was a quintessential offensive player with a vast repertoire from booming triples to twisting slam dunks unparalleled in excellence and artistry.

The former Portland Trailblazers star won back-to-back "Best Import" awards in 1983 as he led the legendary Crispa Redmanizers to their second grand slam, scoring a game high 64 points and eventually averaging 46.2 points a game in his PBA career.

Bates once boasted that "the only way I can be stopped is to handcuff my right arm to my leg."

Basketball fans will get a chance to see the prolific "Black Superman" in action against Great Taste import Norman Black in San Miguel Beer's presentation of "The PBA's Greatest Games" on Sunday at 12 noon over RPN 9. The weekly program, produced by Viva Vintage Sports, will also feature a conversation with grand-slam winning coach Tommy Manotoc and Crispa shooting-star Atoy "The Fortune Cookie" Co.



RAFI Reavis (left) of Andok's San Juan finds himself harassed by FedEX Laguna's Jerome Barbosa under the basket in Game One of their MBA Second Phase Northern Conference semifinals at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna on Wednesday. Andok's won, 88-85.

Shark seeks 3rd win against Montaña

BY DENNIS U. EROA

DEFENDING champion Shark Energy Drink clashes with Montaña Jewels even as longtime rivals Ateneo-Pioneer and ICTSI Archers collide today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Shark-Montaña tussle is set at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. tiff between Ateneo-Pioneer and ICTSI Archers.

Though fielding entirely different lineups as compared to the recent UAAP wars, the thrilling Ateneo-La Salle rivalry remains. Sponsored by the International Container Terminal Services Inc. the Archers are unbeaten in three starts, while the Insurers, blame it on their poor finishes, are in the cellar with three straight setbacks.

Reinforcing ICTSI are ex-pros Rommel Daep and Jessie Cabanayan and NCAA standouts Bernzon Franco and Nelbert Omolon. Scoring machine Leo Avenido of Far Eastern University, 6-foot-6 Billy Mamaril, 6-foot-5 Miggy Noble and former University of the Philippines pointguard Edrick Ferrer play for Ateneo-Pioneer.

Despite its lack of height, ICTSI has been routing the opposition with its swarming, trapping defense, the very same tactic which coach Franz Pumaren essayed in winning the UAAP four-peat.

The Insurers have all the trappings of title contenders and a victory over the Archers should start the ball rolling for the Katipunan-based dribblers.

Shark coach Leo Austria expects big things after the Energy Drink Kings snapped a two-game losing streak by downing Ateneo-Pioneer, 64-59, last Tuesday.

"The victory means a lot for the team," said Austria."Now, we can aim higher."

STANDINGS	W	L
Blu	4	1
ICTSI	3	0
Welcoat	3	1
Shark	2	2
Kutitap	3	3
Ana	2	4
Montaña	1	4
Ateneo	0	3

GAMES TODAY
2 p.m.—Montaña Jewels vs Shark Energy
4 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs ICTSI Archers

Spring Oil battles Korea for crown

KOREA-SANGMU and Spring Cooking Oil trounced separate opponents yesterday to arrange a title showdown for the National Open Basketball Championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Koreans just worked hard enough to beat the RP Young Men's Team, 94-81, in the opener while Tac Padilla's charges tripped the UE Warriors, 76-68, to force the final at 4 p.m. today.

Both Korea-Sangmu and Spring Cooking Oil wound up with a 4-win, 1-loss slates in the six-team tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Defending champion Cebu Lhuillier could actually make it a three-way tie for the lead with an expected victory over NCAA champion San Sebastian College in the nightcap, but would emerge with the lowest quotient of -29.

Korea-Sangmu, by virtue of its 101-68 drubbing of Cebu Lhuillier on Thursday, wound up No.1 with a +26 quotient, while Spring Cooking Oil, which stunned Korea-Sangmu in the opener, had a +7.

The Koreans, runners-up in the recent 24th William Jones Cup in Taipei, thus get the chance to avenge their 109-102 loss to the Bobby Parks-powered Spring Cooking Oil.

Pyo Myoung Il topscored for the Koreans, brought here by the legendary Shin Dong Pa, with 15 points followed by Gil Do Ik with 14 and Jung Hoon Jong 13.

Roy Luarca

NBA results

Milwaukee 78, Toronto 75; New Jersey 95, L.A. Clippers 90; Indiana 110, Washington 103. *AP*

Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon Dec. 2

THE 4TH and final leg of the first-ever Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon Series 2001 takes place on Sunday, Dec. 2 at the De La Salle Zobel swimming pool area at the Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

Sponsored by SMART Money, Lifebuoy, and Vaseline Shampoo, the event is open to youth from 7 to 18 years old. They will be competing in individual triathlon, team relay, and aquathlon in 3 different age groups, 7 to 10, 11 to 14, and 15 to 18 years old with separate divisions for boys and girls, according to race director Ricky Ledesma.

New entries will be accepted for the event though only those who have participated in the previous 2nd and 3rd legs are eligible for the overall championship of the series organized by the First Wave Inc. and sanctioned by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP).

Participants will receive event t-shirts, race bag goodies, and finisher's medals. For more information and registration, call 9117720 or O919-2603464.

The event is being held in cooperation with 92.3 Joeyrhythym, Hardrock Café, Penshoppe, and House of Accessories.

BAKBAKAN
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BAKBAKAN FINALS CHAMPIONSHIP KICKS OFF TODAY

Watch out for one of the year's biggest events in the gamefowl industry as the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders composed of Panay Gamefowl Breeders Association (PAGBA), Negros Gamefowl Breeders Association (NGBA), Gamefowl Breeders Association of Negros (GF BAN), Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association (MIGBA), Cagayan Valley Gamefowl Breeders Association (CVGBA), Cebu Gamefowl Breeders Association (CEGBA), and Cebu Gamefowl Breeders and Cockers Association (CGBCA) kicks off with its first ever **Bakbakan National Derby 2001** championships from Nov. 23-24 at the Iloilo Coliseum in Iloilo City. Witness the unstoppable derby action and see for yourself the best stags from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. From a roster of 200 entries, about 80 are expected to make it to the finals in Iloilo City. Today marks the finals championship for this momentous event. Taking charge of the event are the following interim officers of the said organization: Ricoy Palmares (PAGBA), Chairman; Otic Geroso (GF BAN), Vice Chairman; Jesse Ledesma (PAGBA), Secretary; Juancho Aguirre (NGBA), Treasurer; Nitoy Nasser (MIGBA), Auditor; and Directors Homer Salgado (PAGBA), Edwin Deles (MIGBA), Lancey de la Torre (NGBA), and Allan Lucasan (GF BAN). To start off its series of activities, cocktails were held last Nov. 22 at the Hotel Del Rio and were graciously attended by the finalists and representatives from each association. The awarding ceremonies for the winners of **Bakbakan** will be held tonight at the grand ballroom of Hotel Del Rio.

Gems trip Eagles, reach MBA finals

BY ROY LUARCA

WHEN under pressure, Cebuana Lhuillier will sparkle all the more.

The Gems canned seven of their last eight free throws and silenced the TPG Davao Eagles in the final minute to nip the TPG Davao Eagles, 103-100, and barge into the Southern Conference finals of the MBA Second Phase at the RMC Gym in Davao City.

Of those seven free throws, four were by Carlos Sayon, keying the reversal that pushed the Gems into a best-of-five title showdown with the Negros Slashers.

Sayon, a 6-foot-1 recruit from Negros, wound up with 18 points and six rebounds to earn best player honors.

It was a bitter defeat for Davao, which led by four points, 109-96, going into the last 55 seconds.

The Eagles, however, failed to score the rest of the way and their downfall was sealed when Genesis Sasuman missed a hurried three-point attempt with 1.3 seconds to go,

The seesaw encounter was in stark contrast to the 117-93 rout notched by Cebuana Lhuillier in Game One on Wednesday at the Cebu City Coliseum.

With burly Ryan Bernardo canning four free throws in a six-point cluster, TPG Davao razed a two-point deficit and appeared on the way to sending the series to a deciding Game 3.

Egged on by the hometown crowd, the Eagles surged ahead in the second quarter, 48-34, before the Gems settled down and closed in at 63-60 at halftime.

Andok's San Juan broke away early and went on to repeat over FedEx Laguna, 105-77, and claim a finals slot in the Northern Conference at the San Juan Gym.

The Knights, who also beat the Lakers (88-88) in Game One, will meet the LBC Batangas Blades for the conference title.

Rafi Reavis had another brilliant game for the Knights, scoring 13 points and grabbing 22 rebounds, to share best player honors with Chito Victolero, who contributed 7 points, 5 rebounds, 7 assists and 5 steals.

Scores:

CEBUANA LHUILLIER 103—Sayon 18, Santamaria 14, Se 14, Naron 13, De Jesus 12, Padilla 12, Jose 7, Yu 2, Taguines 2, Mejia 2, Solis 0.

TPG DAVAO 100—Bernardo 18, Marata 18, Malkoloy-on 16, Sasuman 15, Dela Rosa 9, Simon 6, Lopez 2, Santander 0, Bonelon 0.

Quarters: 32-39, 60-63, 83-85, 103-100.

Ucap derby Dec. 11

THE SEARCH is on for the prestigious "United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap)" Cocker for the Year 2002 winner, with the staging of 15 Ucap bigtime derbies beginning on Dec. 11 and 13 to be hosted by *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and lawyer Ram Lopez.

In a general meeting held Nov. 16 at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City, the Ucap board members agreed to hold 15 derbies (13 national and two international) from December 2001 to June 2002.

Chosen members of the Ucap board were Sonny Lagon, Biboy Enriquez, Capt. Ben Rodriguez, Joey delos Santos, Ram Lopez, Patrick Puno, Raymond Velayo, Pete Rodriguez, Patrick Antonio, Jet Fernando and Butch Macasaet.

Ty hosts Roligon hackfights

COCKING aficionados will be treated to breathtaking hackfights at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City tomorrow.

Host Danny "Showdown" Ty said a bonus of P500 would be given to every winner in these encounters which starts at 9 a. m.

He added that the fastest kill within 10 seconds or below will be given a prize of P10,000. This will begin at 2 p.m.

Ty also said that paying patrons are entitled to a raffle whose prizes include an electric fan, a rice cooker, a rice dispenser and a portable closet.

This hackfight will be followed by LA 939 4-Cock Derby hosted by Lito Alcantara on Nov. 29.

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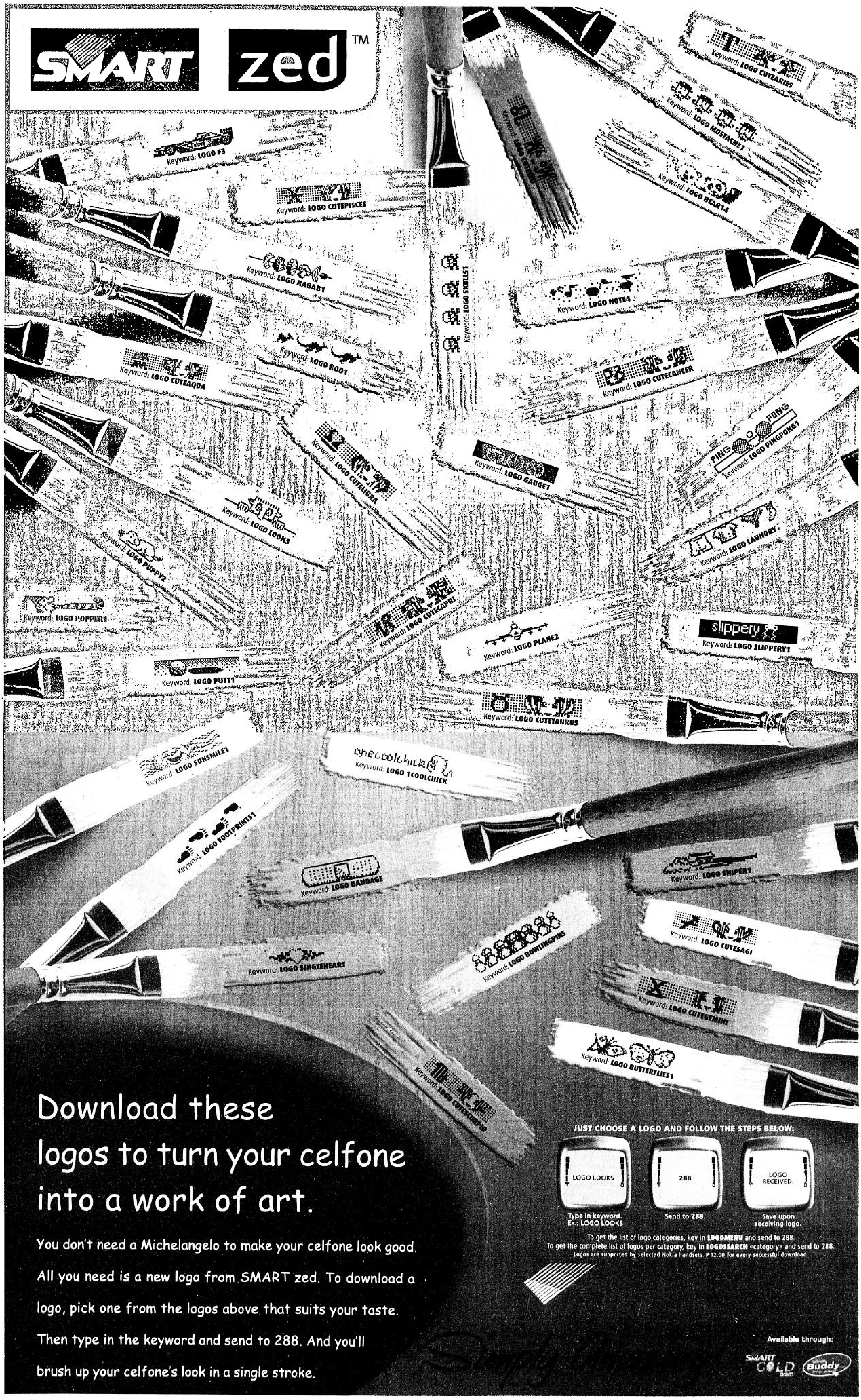
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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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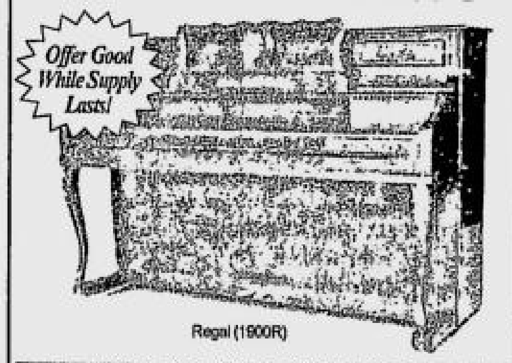

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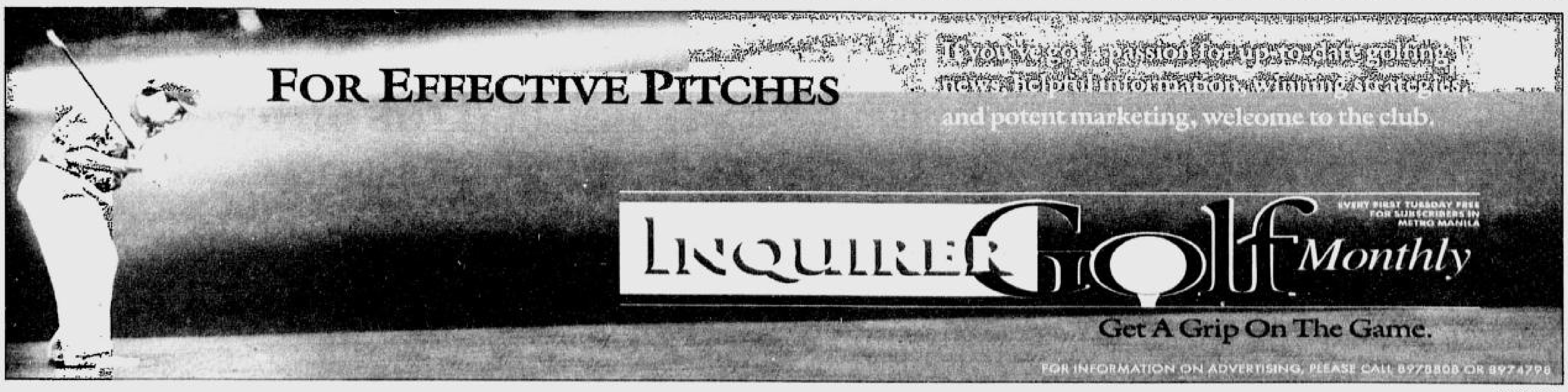

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10 cops charged with murder of 2

BY AGNES E. DONATO

TEN members of the Philippine National Police intelligence group were charged with murder and attempted murder before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for the killing of a hotel executive and an 18-year-old girl in an ambush last May where the hotel executive's daughter was also wounded.

Supt. Edgar Iglesia, Chief Insp. James Mejia, Senior Insp. Edwin Portento, Inspectors Preston Bagangan, Ceazar Percival Pangda and Christine Tabdi, and Police Officers 1 John Bolatin, Arnold Solas, Cheerylyn Tundayag and Frederick Taala were held responsible for the deaths of Fernando Lozada, 48, chief steward of New World Hotel, and Marianne Uson, 18, of Nueve de Pebrero, Mandaluyong City.

Uson was a friend of Lozada's 17-year-old daughter Clarissa, who also suffered bullet wounds in the assault.

The Office of the Ombudsman recommended the filing of charges against the police officers in a 16-page resolution issued last September.

Investigation showed that Lozada, of Vista Verde Executive Village in Cainta, Rizal; his daughter, Clarissa; and her friend Uson were on their way to a party in Damar Village in Quezon City on the night of May 17 on board a blue Mitsubishi car (TKM 265) driven by Lozada. They were about to make a U-turn at the intersection of Del Monte and G. Araneta avenues when three armed men in civilian clothes alighted from a white car and approached them.

The armed men were said to have mistaken the trio to be members of a crime syndicate they were after.

Lozada apparently got scared and sped off toward Quezon Avenue, with the armed men chasing them, the investigation showed. Clarissa also told investigators the armed men began firing at them, but Lozada continued to drive even after he and Uson were hit. Lozada then rammed the car into a concrete wall near the corner of Araneta Avenue and Maria Clara Street.

Lozada and Marianne were brought to the Orthopedic Hospital where Lozada was pronounced dead on arrival. Marianne died the following day.

The Ombudsman established in his resolution that the service firearms of the respondent police officers were all found positive of gunpowder nitrates.

The respondents also admitted they were at the scene of the crime and their vehicles were recorded by scene of the crime investigators (Soco).

The respondents were members of the joint force of the Intelligence Operations Division and the Intelligence Group, which was organized to entrap the kidnappers of Mark Harris Bacalla, who was abducted on May 2. Bacalla is the son of the late QCRTC Judge Marciano Bacalla.

ATO's General Yap is arrogant

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ONE of the avowed aims of this corner is to put down the arrogant and high and mighty, to humble government officials and private individuals who give too much importance to themselves.

Let's pinpoint one of them: retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Adelberto, now chief of the Air Transportation Office (ATO).

***

Some flight stewardesses of Philippine Air Lines (PAL) have complained to me that Yap has been harassing them. They say that the ATO chief, who has jurisdiction over all vehicles and persons that fly, has been pressuring PAL to suspend or kick them out. These flying ladies have been with PAL long before its present owner, Lucio Tan, took over the nation's flag carrier.

What did these flight attendants do to get the ire of General Yap?

According to the stewardesses, it all started when Yap's grandson was not upgraded to first class from business class on a flight from the United States to Manila about two months ago.

***

Yap's grandson, 6 years old, was travelling with his parents on economy fare. However, because of Yap's exalted position in the airline industry, his son, daughter-in-law and grandson were upgraded to business class.

But Yap's son and daughter-in-law probably thought that power was transferable from parent to his offsprings. They were not contented with being upgraded to business class. They wanted to be upgraded further—to first class, a niche for government VIPs and multimillionaires.

By the way, tycoon Lucio Tan doesn't take first class or business class when he travels on his own airline. He joins the hoi polloi at the economy class. Tan, one of the richest men in Asia, was asked why he prefers the economy class over business or first class. His reply: he arrives at exactly the same time at his destination with the people on the business class or first class.

***

Anyway, the plane that Yap's son and daughter-in-law took at the time was full. There were only two seats available at the first class section. Since there were three of them, only two could be accommodated at the first class section.

The attendants on that flight were aware that the Yaps had already been upgraded from economy class to business class by the PAL people at the airport reservations counter. Flight attendants have no power to upgrade passengers. But since the request for upgrading came from the son of the most powerful man in the airline industry, one of them took it upon herself to accommodate the request. She thought she was doing the Yaps a favor. She regretted her decision later.

Perhaps the young couple desperately wanted to feel rich by mixing with the ultra-rich and ultra-powerful. The Yap couple got the two available seats at first class. You know what they did to their 6-year-old child? They left him alone at the business class!

***

When ATO's Yap learned that his grandson was left to practically fend for himself at the business class section, he got mad. But he didn't get mad at his son and daughter-in-law. The general fumed at the flight stewardesses, particularly the one who accommodated his son's request to be upgraded to first class.

Anak ka ng pating, General! Why should you get mad at the poor flight stewardess when you should even be grateful to her. Why blame the lady for your son and his wife's negligent attitude toward your grandson?

If you don't know the whole story, then this is the side of the flight stewardesses. Please hear them out! Don't listen to your son who's so spoiled he's become addlebrained. Imagine, leaving your grandson alone in the business class section just so he could rub elbows with the rich and powerful !

***

Dear readers, Yap keeps on harassing the flight attendants even after PAL management found they were blameless on the incident. The ATO chief asked for their heads. According to the flight attendants, he has threatened to put more pressure on PAL management to get even with them.

Tsk! Tsk! Tsk! *Ayaw daug-dauga ang mga gagmay nga tawo, bay, kay basi ka gabaan* (Don't oppress the small people because karma might look on you)!

Anyway, why don't you go pick a guy your size, General?

***

General Yap first imposed himself on the public consciousness when he was promoted to full-fledged colonel, jumping over the heads of much more senior lieutenant colonels.

His secret weapon was his wife, former Pasay City congresswoman Lorna Verano-Yap, a vocal critic of the Marcos regime. Upon his wife's intercession, Yap was appointed personal aide-de-camp of then President Cory Aquino.

You know your humble beginnings, General Yap. It was a woman, your wife, who brought you up. Please don't bring down ordinary working women by using your exalted position.

***

You should learn a lesson from Vice Adm. Reuben Lista, commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is a sister agency of the ATO under the Department of Transportation and Communications.

I've known Ben Lista since he was just a Navy commander (Army equivalent: lieutenant colonel).

Lista and I have the same way of passing time: we both drink our troubles away in some cozy places. I have never seen Ben Lista berate waiters or waitresses even when they were giving him very poor service.

He's become even more humble now, treating waiters like they were his equal by calling them "boss."

Lista's humility has endeared him to the small people.

***Bakit hindi mo gayahin ang ugali ni* Ben Lista, Bert? Two-star general *ka lang naman at retired ka pa*, compared to Ben's three.**

GMA confronts fortune seekers, bounty hunters in Congress

Delegates to the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu will hear from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a guest speaker for the event. Trust The Inquirer to give you the scoop as the President comes face-to-face with those preying on opportunities.

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DPWH, Taguig local gov't face raps over demolition

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

DISPLACED Taguig residents are set to sue the Department of Public Works and Highways and the local government for human rights violations during the demolition of squatters' houses near C-5 Road early this week.

The victims, numbering in the hundreds, are preparing their affidavits of complaint against members of the demolition team and the Philippine Army who carried out the demolition, said Divina Daguno of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority will also be sued, Daguno said.

The victims accused authorities of violating their human rights when they demolished structures located way beyond the 15-meter road widening limit prescribed by the DPWH.

On Tuesday, about 1,000 demolition team members, supported by hundreds of armed soldiers and policemen, stormed the area on orders coming from the DPWH and the Taguig local government.

Angry residents retaliated by throwing rocks at the demolition team. A pillbox exploded during the confrontation where six members of the demolition crew suffered superficial injuries.

Two-week-old baby Jomari Caguioa nearly died when the demolition crew allegedly hurled teargases to keep the residents at bay.

A soldier later arrested Joel Tagnipes, 19, and allegedly hit him in the nose with a rifle for allegedly throwing a pillbox. Tagnipes suffered a cut and swollen nose and bruises on the forehead.

Village leader Renato Gabriel criticized authorities for resorting to violence to carry out the demolition.

"They didn't have to bring guns," Gabriel said.

1 nabbed for officer's slay

BY AGNES E. DONATO

POLICE yesterday arrested one of the seven alleged robbers who shot dead on Monday night retired Chief Insp. Feliciano Juan, 57, when he responded to a call of help during a robbery in Valenzuela City.

Erwin Roxas, 28, of General Luis Street in Novaliches, Quezon City, was arrested about 2:30 p.m. yesterday in Barangay Ugong, Valenzuela while he was said to be looking for a buyer for his handgun, said P/Insp. Salvador de la Cruz, chief of the Valenzuela police investigation division.

Alejandro Lazaro, owner of ALA Gas, a store selling liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), positively identified Roxas as one of seven men who robbed his store and poked guns at his family members on Monday night, police said. But it could not be determined if Roxas was one of two robbers who shot dead Juan when he went to the scene of the robbery.

The two robbers who shot Juan were said to have acted as lookouts during the robbery.

Juan died from several gunshot wounds in the body during treatment at Lantin Hospital, police said.

Roxas is now facing homicide charges at the Valenzuela City Regional Trial Court.

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6	WEYT A MINIT
7	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
8	KAPITAN AMBO

CENTERPOINT 7140522-7161416

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	GLITTER
3	HARRY POTTER
4	WEYT A MINIT
5	HARRY POTTER
6	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
7	SERENDIPITY
8	THE ONE
9	TRIP
10	ANO BANG MERON KA?

CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	TRIP
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	SERENDIPITY
4	HARRY POTTER
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
7	HARRY POTTER
8	THE ONE
9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
10	HARRY POTTER
11	GLITTER
12	KAPITAN AMBO

CITY MANILA 5230240

1	SERENDIPITY
2	GLITTER
3	KING OF GLADIATORS
4	HARRY POTTER
5	JOY RIDE
6	THE ONE
7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	HARRY POTTER
10	TRIP
11	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
12	KAPITAN AMBO

MEGAMALL 6330901 • 6329401

1	HARRY POTTER
2	SERENDIPITY
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	HARRY POTTER
5	GLITTER
6	THE ONE
7	TRIP
8	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
10	HARRY POTTER
11	KAPITAN AMBO
12	WEYT A MINIT

TUTUBAN 2514302

1	HARRY POTTER
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	WEYT A MINIT

CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	GLITTER
7	HARRY POTTER
8	HARRY POTTER
9	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
10	TRIP
11	DUGONG ASO
12	THE ONE

SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	SERENDIPITY
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	HARRY POTTER
4	GLITTER
5	THE ONE
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7	KAPITAN AMBO
8	HARRY POTTER
9	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
10	DUGONG ASO

GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	HARRY POTTER
3	KAPITAN AMBO

CEBU 2313876

1	TRIP
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	HARRY POTTER
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	BUBBLE BOY
7	HARRY POTTER

ILOILO 3209422

1	TRIP
2	CLOSED
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	HARRY POTTER
7	CLOSED
8	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG

PAMPANGA 7128015

1	HARRY POTTER
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	KAPITAN AMBO
5	DUGONG ASO
6	WEYT A MINIT

SUCAT 8204075

1	SERENDIPITY
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

DAVAO

1	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	SERENDIPITY
5	DOS EKIS
6	HARRY POTTER

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- 2 HUWAG KANG KIKIBO — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 3 HARRY POTTER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 KAPITAN AMBO — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

- 1 HARRY POTTER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 2 HARRY POTTER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 3 HARRY POTTER THX — In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
- 5 SERENDIPITY — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 6 HARRY POTTER — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
- 7 GLITTER — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

- 1 HARRY POTTER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 2 HARRY POTTER — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
- 3 HARRY POTTER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 REGINE AT THE MOVIES NOV. 23, 24, 30 / DEC. 1, 7, 8, 15, 16 — Onstage

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- 1 HARRY POTTER THX — In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
- 2 HARRY POTTER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 3 HARRY POTTER — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 SERENDIPITY — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 5 GLITTER — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	THE ONE
2 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4 GOLD (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	GLITTER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
10	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
5	DUGONG ASO
6 (DTS)	KAPITAN AMBO

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	HARRY POTTER
3	DUGONG ASO

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
5	DUGONG ASO

METROPOLIS star (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	DUGONG ASO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	KAPITAN AMBO
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	HARRY POTTER
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA LUCASFILM THX (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	HARRY POTTER

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TRAINING DAY
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	DUGONG ASO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	KAPITAN AMBO

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	DUGONG ASO
A	HARRY POTTER

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	
4	KAPITAN AMBO

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	DUGONG ASO
5	KAPITAN AMBO
6	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8 (SDDS)	GLITTER
9 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4 (SDDS)	KAPITAN AMBO
5	DUGONG ASO
6 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
9	THE ONE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	WEYT A MINIT
5 (SDDS)	GLITTER
6	DUGONG ASO
7 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT
4	DUGONG ASO
5 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KAPITAN AMBO

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DUGONG ASO

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	DUGONG ASO
Lords	DUGONG ASO
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HARRY POTTER

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	KAPITAN AMBO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	DUGONG ASO
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HARRY POTTER

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	

Berma tel 879.2029

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DUGONG ASO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	KAPITAN AMBO
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	TRIP
3	ANO ABNG MERON KA?

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HARRY POTTER
3	WEYT A MINIT

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	WEYT A MINIT

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	HARRY POTTER
4	WEYT A MINIT

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	GHOST OF MARS
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS ES)	HARRY POTTER

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GALLERIA 632-9115-16 / 633-7041 loc. 279

1	HARRY POTTER
2	GLITTER
3	HARRY POTTER
4	SERENDIPITY
5	HARRY POTTER
6	THE ONE
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
9	KAPITAN AMBO
10	JOY RIDE

ERMITA 536-7009 TO 12

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE ONE
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	SERENDIPITY
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	GLITTER
7	HARRY POTTER

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	DUGONG ASO
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	GLITTER
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	HARRY POTTER

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	SERENDIPITY
2	SERENDIPITY
3	DUGONG ASO
4	HARRY POTTER
5	HARRY POTTER
6	HARRY POTTER
7	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
8	KAPITAN AMBO

IMUS (046) 471-6166

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	KAPITAN AMBO

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	EXTREME FORCE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	TRIP

ILOILO (033) 336-0077 / 6076

1	HARRY POTTER
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	HARRY POTTER
4	SOON TO OPEN
5	SOON TO OPEN
6	SOON TO OPEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WEYT A MINIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GLITTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	EARTHQUAKE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SIDHI / CLIMAX
ODEON	HARRY POTTER
ODEON-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ROBEN	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
REMAR	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
REMAR-2	HARRY POTTER

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
B	KAPITAN AMBO
C	DUGONG ASO

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	GLITTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUGONG ASO
CINEMA-2	KAPITAN AMBO
CINEMA-3	TRIP
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATORS
CINEMA-6	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-12	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-14	GLITTER
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-5	GLITTER
CINEMA-6	HARRY POTTER

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Pagcor lights up C-5 Road

MOTORISTS using C-5 Road can now breathe a sigh of relief. This long stretch of road, which became notorious for being the site of vehicular accidents and holdup and stone-throwing incidents, has just been rehabilitated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino said the firm's General Services Department (GSD) headed by retired Col. Luisito Picache has completed the restoration of streetlights in the dimly lit C5, specifically the boundaries of Makati-Pasig and Makati-Taguig.

A total of 60 lampposts were restored and repainted in the area by 40 members of Pagcor's GSD engineering unit upon the request of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

The C-5 lighting project involved the replacement of busted lamps and aerial wirings, installation of photo-electric switches, and repainting of lamp posts, among others.

Genuino said Pagcor set aside approximately P1.5 million from its casino income to fund the restoration. Of this amount, P500.000 was used to pay the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

Aside from many hit-and-run cases, C-5 Road was known as a haven of thieves and vandals. Several motorists were held up and the tires of their vehicles were punctured by lawless elements in the area.

UST Law reunion

FORMER senator Victor S. Ziga, president of the UST Law Alumni Foundation Inc., together with the board of trustees and officers, announced the 267th anniversary homecoming and reunion at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Manila on Ayala Avenue in Makati City at 7 p.m.

There will be a Mass at 6 p.m.

The jubilarians are Golden-Class 1951 coordinator Dean Amado Dimayuga, Ruby-1961 coordinator Reginaldo Oben, Silva-1976 coordinator Edward Castañeda and Flordeliza Jimeno, Tin-1991 coordinator Arnold Cacho and recent successful bar examinees coordinator Prudence Kasala.

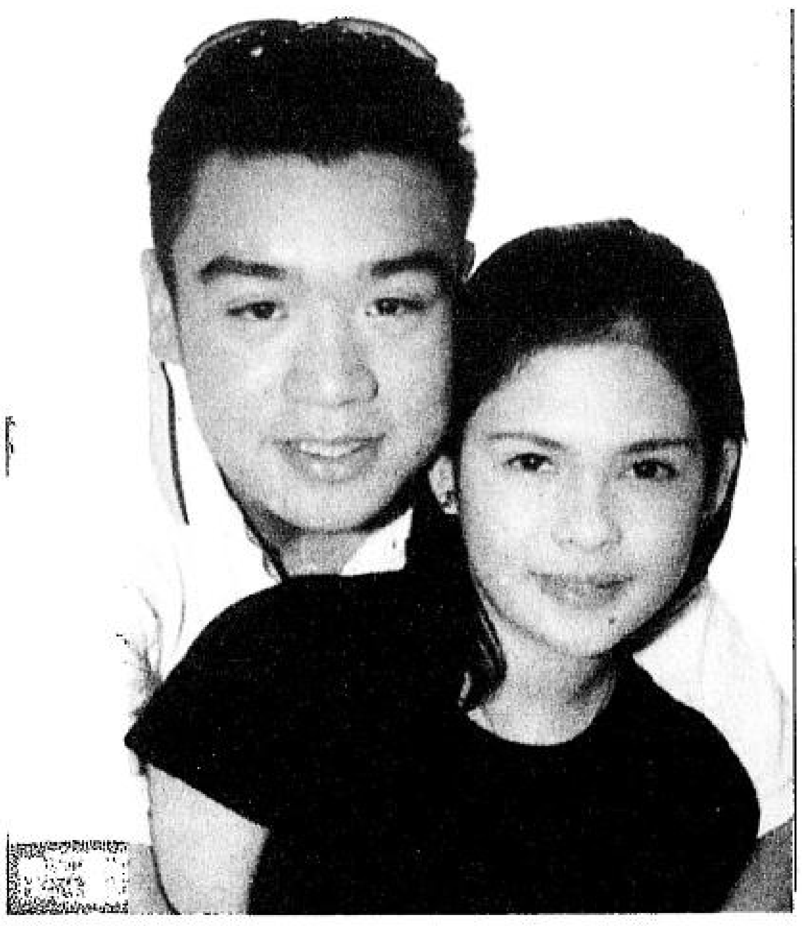
The affair will give the distinguished alumna award to Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez (Class '60), Supreme Court. The other awardees in the judiciary are Judge Norma T. Chionglo-Sia (Class '61), of RTC Branch 56, Lucena City; Judge Leticia Querubin-Ulibarri (Class '57) of RTC Branch 168, Pasig City; Judge Elizabeth Yu-Guray (Class '78) of RTC Branch 202, Las Piñas; Judge Lorna Navarro-Domingo (Class '78) of RTC Branch 201, Las Piñas; Judge Aida Rangel-Roque (Class '62) of RTC Branch 75, Manila; Asst. Chief State Prosecutor Severino Gaña Jr., Department of Justice.

New temple

HIGHLY revered spiritual Buddhist master Nedo Kuchung Rinpoche will inaugurate a new Tibetan Buddhist temple today on J. Abad Santos in Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

The inauguration of the Philippine Nedo Kagyu Maha Bodhi Dharma Foundation Center, a Vajrayana Buddhist temple of the Karma Kagyu sect, is made specially significant as the center initiates on Dec. 2 a prayer vigil dubbed "Universal Mantra of Compassion" as a spiritual response to the many problems of the country.

The prayer vigil, which will run until the New Year, aims to achieve 100 million chantings of "Ohm Mani Pedme Hung" or the heart mantra of Kuan Yin. All Buddhists and non-Buddhists are enjoined to take on the aspiration and compassion of Kuan Yin to purify negative karmas so that all hearts will be filled with compassion and kindness.



YOUNG LOVE. Vandolph Quizon and Desiree Raquiza

The Vandolph-Isee love story

By Leah Salterio

SHE is his first love and long-time crush. He is her first serious relationship.

The childhood sweethearts met each other on the campus of the Colegio de San Agustin in Makati City, where they are both high school juniors.

Those who know the young couple say actor Vandolph Quizon and Desiree Raquiza are so much in love with each other.

"Vandolph had a crush on Desiree for a long time before she became his girlfriend," the actor's nanny, *Yaya* Rose, told the Inquirer in an exclusive interview.

"Vandolph told me he liked the girl because Desiree is petite and pretty like his mama (actress Alma Moreno)."

Moreno herself knows Vandolph is seriously in love with Desiree.

"She (Desiree) is the only girl Vandolph introduced to me," the mother said.

"One day, while I was rehearsing for a show at Another World (her bar-restaurant in Parañaque), he came up to me and introduced Desiree. He didn't even say she was his girlfriend. But of course I already knew that."

Moreno recalled that after Vandolph left the bar-restaurant, she sent him a text message saying *"Ang galing mo'ng pumili* (You've made a very good choice)."

In reply, Vandolph texted his mother, "I love you."

So in love

Moreno said her son also visited Desiree's relatives and introduced himself. He also introduced Desiree to his half-brothers and sisters.

"I always have this fear that Vandolph might fall so in love with the girl and neglect his studies," Moreno said. "But he promised Joey (Parañaque Mayor Marquez, her husband and Vandolph's stepfather) and me that he would finish his studies because he wants to. He says he wants to go to college in the States and put up his own business one day."

Yaya Rose said that after it was reported that Vandolph sired a kid with a girl who is not from show business, most of the girls that Vandolph had been dating started to avoid him. But Desiree was the only one who did not go away and even asked how he was.

The two students became sweethearts when they were still high school freshmen.

Yaya Rose said she was the reason Vandolph and Desiree once broke up.

"They were still very young and they would often fight, so I told Vandolph it was better that they parted ways.

"But when he saw her again after the controversy over his child, Vandolph tried to court her again."

The romance was rekindled only last Sept. 8, according to Yaya Rose, and the young lovers started going out again.

Yaya Rose describes Vandolph as very generous, like his father, ace comedian Dolphy, when it comes to women.

Flowers

"Whenever he would date a girl, he would always ask me to buy or order flowers," Yaya Rose said. "I know he gave Desiree a Philippe Charriol ring, among other things. He also knows her favorite food, color and perfume."

Teachers at the Colegio de San Agustin all attest to the good behavior of both Vandolph and Desiree.

One of them told Moreno and Marquez that there are times when Vandolph would peep into Desiree's classroom and wave at her.

"I believe the girl inspired Vandolph to aim for good grades," Moreno said.

Desiree, 17, is the second child and the only girl among the four children of Levi and Marissa Raquiza. She is a grand daughter of former Assemblyman Antonio Raquiza.

The Raquizas live in Merville Subdivision, Parañaque.

"You know that Vandolph really loves Desiree so much because their two companions in the van during the accident told us he even tried to shield her when their vehicle hit a truck," Moreno said.

Moreno's female aides said the theme song of Vandolph and Desiree is "Deep," by Binocular.

In the Makati Medical Center ninth-floor suite occupied by Moreno and Mayor Marquez, there's a steady stream of visitors daily, from morning to night.

Guests

The guests include barangay officers, public school teachers and city hall employees from Parañaque, neighbors, friends, relatives, show biz personalities and Vandolph's teachers and classmates at Colegio de San Agustin.

Flowers and fruits fill every corner of the suite.

In ICU Room 11 where Vandolph is confined, messages fill a huge illustration board, which also has a blow-up colored picture of Vandolph's junior high school class III-C.

Vandolph's teacher, a Mrs. Felipe, wrote: "Life is really full of challenges, but it is still beautiful."

Another teacher, Mrs. Blaquera, wrote: "*Mahal naming* Vandolph, *Pagaling (kayo). Lumaban (kayo). Hihintayin namin kayo* (Get well. Fight. We'll wait for you)."

Ms Sebastian, Vandolph's physical education teacher, wrote: "I will miss your three-point shots and the orange rubber shoes."

Marquez told the Inquirer, "I won't be surprised if, after Vandolph and Desiree survive this tragedy, they decide to get married. They've been through the worst and they will surely want to be together, more than ever, as soon as they recover."

Castelo's gift of music for President Bush

SINGER and former Quezon City councilor Anthony Castelo has written a song dedicated to America's undying spirit and noble effort to lead the world in defense of freedom.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presented Castelo's composition, "Long Live America," to US President George W. Bush as a gift from the Filipino people.

Castelo wrote the song with Becca Godinez, a former singer who is now married to American singer Morris Albert.

Castelo sang "Long Live America" during the recent US visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the RP-US mutual defense treaty.

Castelo said he was inspired by the strong ties between the US and the Philippines as well as the recent terrorist attacks in the US.

"After what happened to the US on Sept. 11, no one in the Pacific felt the pain more than the Filipinos," said Castelo.

"The Philippines is America's best friend in that part of the world," he said. "To me and to many Filipinos, an attack on America is an attack on the Philippines."

Castelo said that if the French gifted America with the Statue of Liberty to symbolize freedom, his song should be the humble offering of the Filipino people.

"The whole world marveled at the American people's unique response to the crisis as President Bush, who was in control of the situation, rallied the nation toward affirmative action," Castelo said. "America is truly the home of the brave."

Castelo was a member of the singing group The Young Americans during his school days in the US.

He is now in the East Coast for a series of performances to promote "Long Live America."

Castelo recorded such popular tunes as "Balatkayo" and "Hahanapin Ko."

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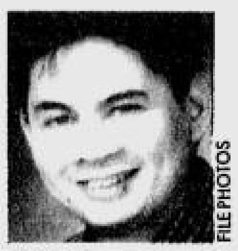
Marquez 'disappointed' with Tinga over deal

By Christian V. Esguerra

MARQUEZ



TINGA

FILE PHOTOS

THE LOCAL governments of Parañaque and Taguig are locked in another conflict over uncollected garbage in a disputed property.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez yesterday criticized Taguig officials for allegedly not doing their part in the collection of garbage on the east service road connecting Taguig and Parañaque.

"I'm very, very disappointed," Marquez said in a press statement.

Marquez and Taguig Mayor Sigfredo Tinga earlier agreed to jointly develop the area, which the two local governments had previously neglected.

In a meeting last Nov. 12, Taguig and Parañaque agreed to alternate in collecting garbage and in maintaining peace and order in the area.

Immediately after the meeting, Marquez ordered his men to clean up the service road stretching from Barangay Martin de Porres and Bicutan market to the Parañaque-Muntinlupa boundary.

But Taguig did not carry out its responsibilities when it was its turn to clean up the area this week, according to Danny Santillan, Marquez's public relations officer.

The Parañaque mayor was supposedly told by his men that Taguig officials were not doing their part in the compromise.

Lito Mendez, head of Taguig's Clean and Green program, said Marquez's men fed him wrong information.

"We've been cleaning the area since Monday," he yesterday told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"Perhaps they just saw a little garbage there but it doesn't mean that we're not doing our job," he added.

Marquez and Tinga had previously figured in a conflict after they received heavy criticisms from residents for supposedly neglecting the east service road.

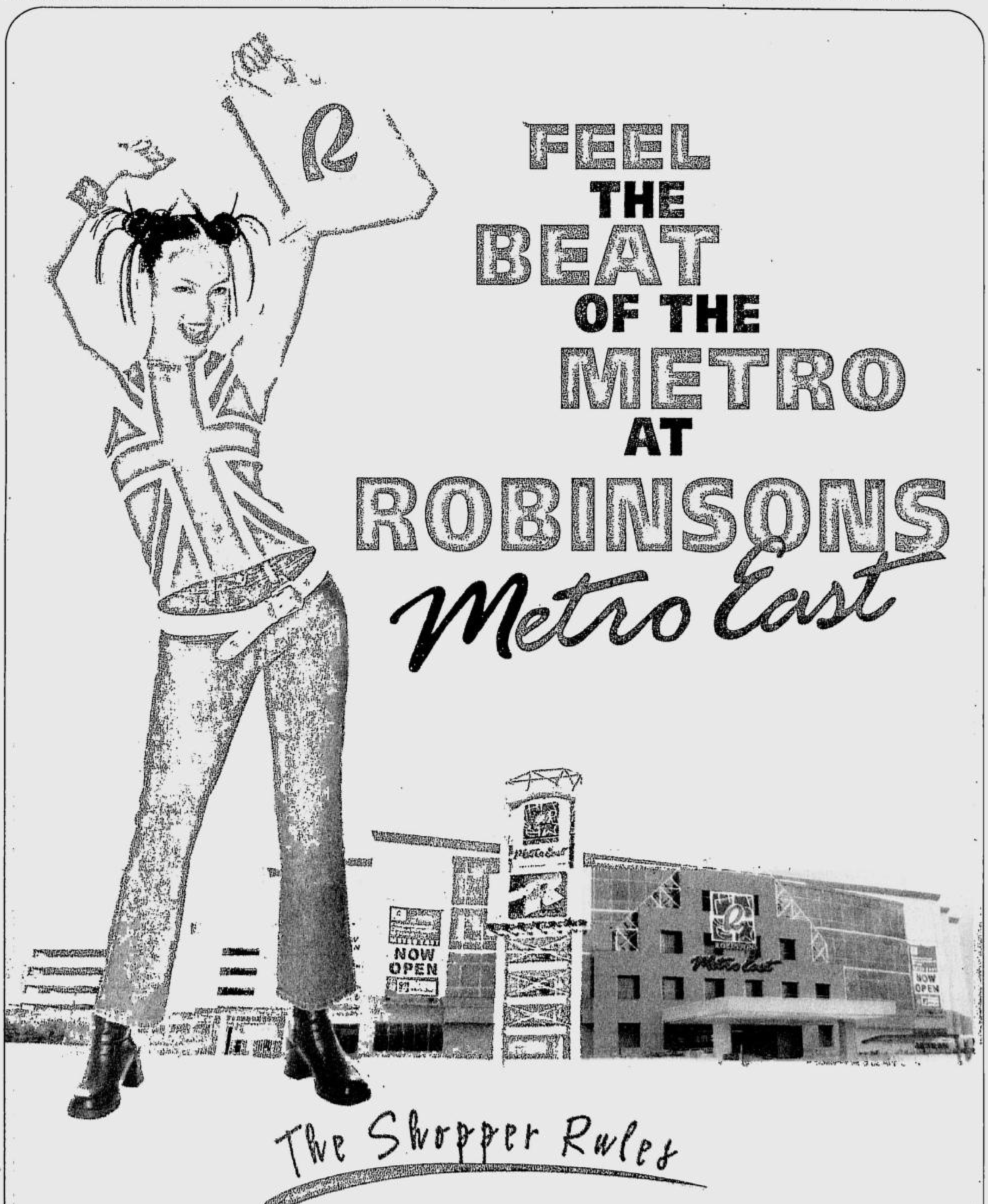
Judge orders arrest of rural bank president

THE PRESIDENT of the Rural Bank of San Miguel (Bulacan) Inc. (RBSM) has been ordered arrested by Judge Arturo C. Tayag of the Malolos Regional Trial Court, Branch 79, for his failure to appear during his scheduled arraignment.

According to a statement from the Central Bank, court records show that Hilario P. Soriano and Rosalinda Ilagan, president and branch manager for RBSM, respectively, were scheduled to be arraigned on Nov. 21, 2001 for estafa through falsification of commercial documents and for violation of Sec. 83 of Republic Act No. 337.

During the scheduled arraignment, only Ilagan appeared, the Central Bank statement said. Soriano's failure to attend prompted the prosecution to move that Ilagan be arraigned and that a warrant of arrest be issued against accused Soriano.

Despite the vigorous opposition of defense counsel Sedfrey Ordoñez, Judge Tayag decided to proceed with the arraignment of Ilagan and issue an order for the arrest of Soriano, the statement said.



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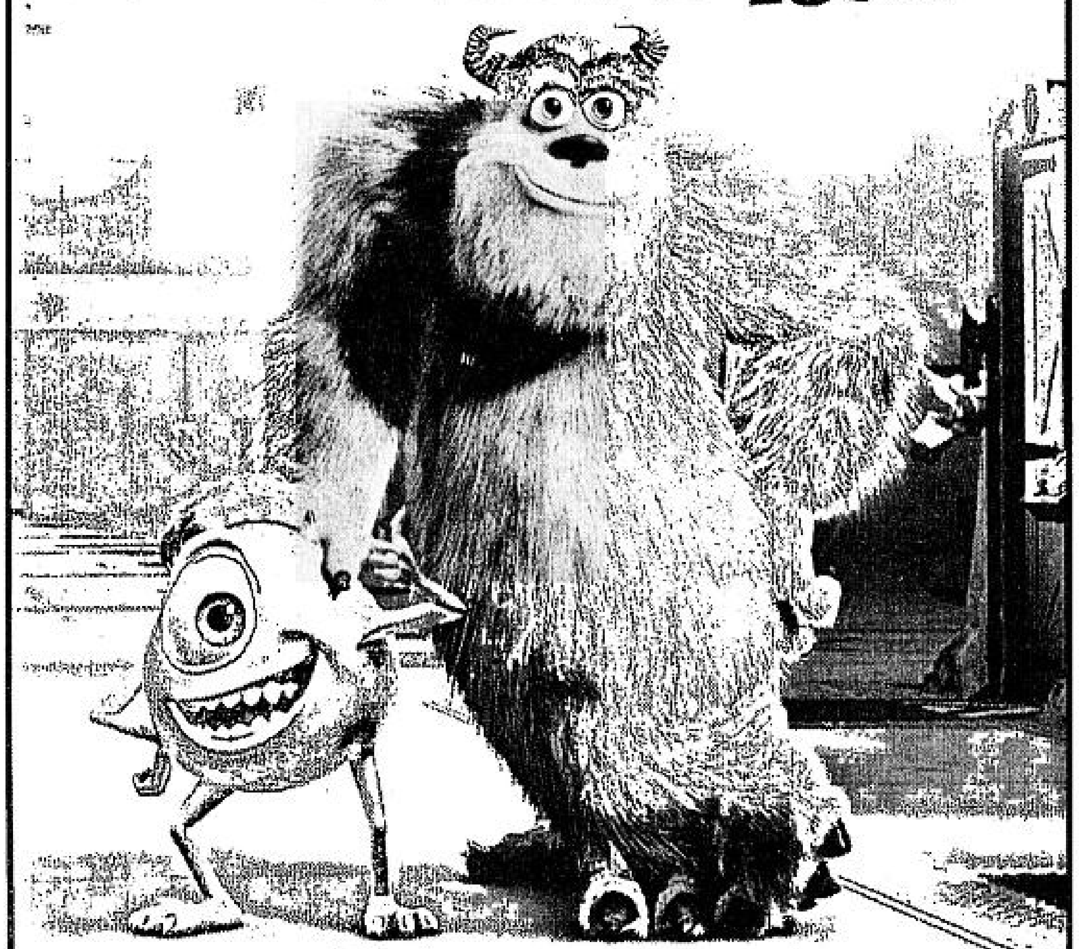

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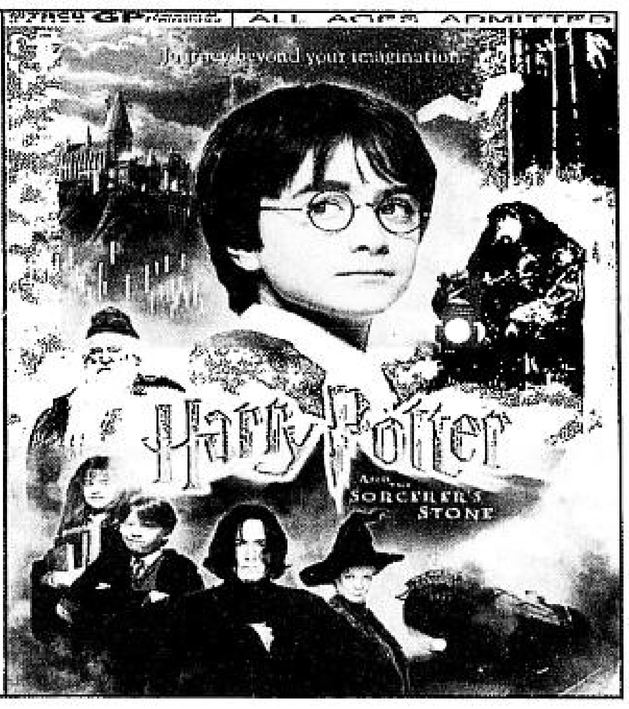

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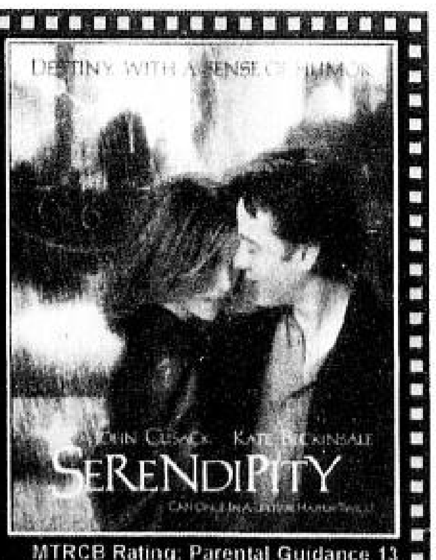

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Incinerators can fire up corruption, says group

By Alcuin Papa

AN ENVIRONMENTAL group yesterday asked Congress and Metro Manila mayors to junk plans to use incinerators to solve the mounting garbage crisis in the metropolis.

In a news conference yesterday, Mother Earth Unlimited said the use of incinerators is costly and would contribute to corruption. It would also set back worldwide efforts to promote recycling and waste minimization, the group said.

Moves by members of Congress to seek amendments to the Clean Air Act, which bans the use of incinerators to process garbage, must be stopped, the group added.

Sonia Mendoza, president of Mother Earth and current NGO representative to the National Solid Waste Management Commission, said that incineration-based technology would cost the government about P6.8 billion pesos in tipping fees annually. This is compared to a community centered waste management program, which would require a one-time expense of only P1.125 billion for the 1,500 barangays in Metro Manila, Mendoza said.

Since most incinerator contracts last for 25 years, taxpayers would end up paying at least P107.82 billion for the duration of the contract of only one incinerator, she said.

"With the amount we will pay for the operation of a 4,000 ton per day incinerator in one year alone, the government would be able to fund and implement the Clean Air Act nine times over," Mendoza pointed out. "This is truly scandalous, especially since Congress has failed to give due appropriation for the implementation of both the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Waste Management Act. Where will we get the money for incinerators?"

Huge amounts of money that would be spent on incinerator projects also make incineration a tempting proposition for government officials, who could earn commissions from the projects or from kickbacks, according to Mother Earth.

The group also stressed that adopting incineration technology would delay the implementation of the real solutions to the garbage problem by at least 20 years.

"These facilities will compete with recycling technologies for the same resource, which is garbage," said Odette Alcantara, a member of Mother Earth. "And because incinerators need waste to continue operating, they undermine progress toward recycling and waste minimization."

Alcantara also said that "wasting much needed resources on traditional waste disposal options which are proven failures is downright foolish and unjustifiable. It simply does not make sense to burn paper, organic materials, metal and other resources which could be conserved for future use and brought back into the productive economy."

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. earlier said the use of incinerators would be costly. But he said it would be okay to use incinerators if each local government unit can afford them.

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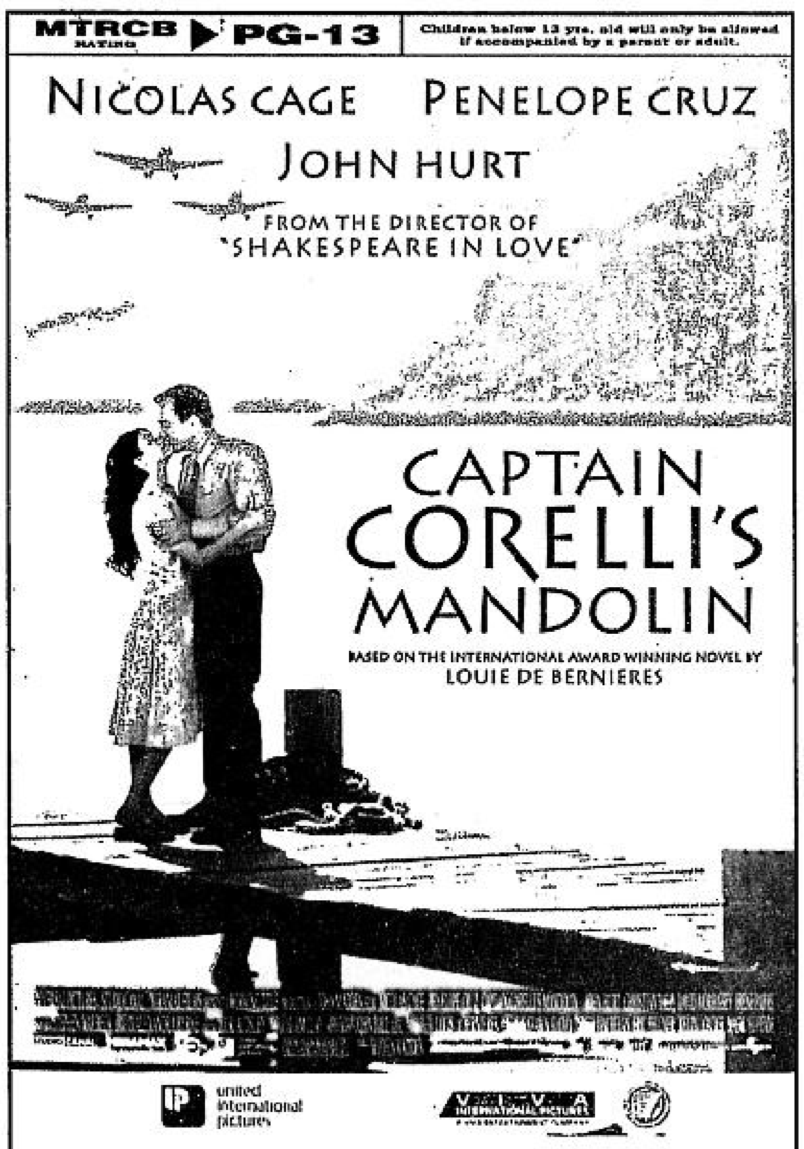
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VICE MAYORS' CONVENTION

Members of the Vice Mayors League of the Philippines held their 13th national convention on Nov. 22 to 24 at the Century Park Hotel in Manila. Some delegates from Laguna province were joined by the hotel's public relations manager, Steve Naguiat.

UP High reunion

THE GRADUATES of UP High School (Batch '76) are requested to attend a special meeting and family day today at 10 a.m. at the UP High Multipurpose Hall in UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The meeting will also serve as a practice session for a reprise of the celebrated Udlot-Udlot ethno-music composition of National Artist Dr. Jose Maceda, which will be held at the Batch '76 reunion set for Dec. 8.

UP High Batch '76 performed the "world premier" of Udlot-Udlot 25 years ago on the grounds of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It was later staged in Japan, Jakarta in Indonesia, San Francisco, USA and in Berlin, Germany.

Also included in today's special meeting is an art workshop where children of Batch '76 UP High graduates will make the decorations for the Dec. 8 grand reunion.

Batch '76ers are also requested to bring their old and new photos that will be included in the exclusive UP High 76 CD-Rom.

Please contact Dazzle K. Rivera (0919-796-1331) and Luchie Callanta (0917-945-9733) for more details, or get more information via uphigh76@yahoogroups.com.

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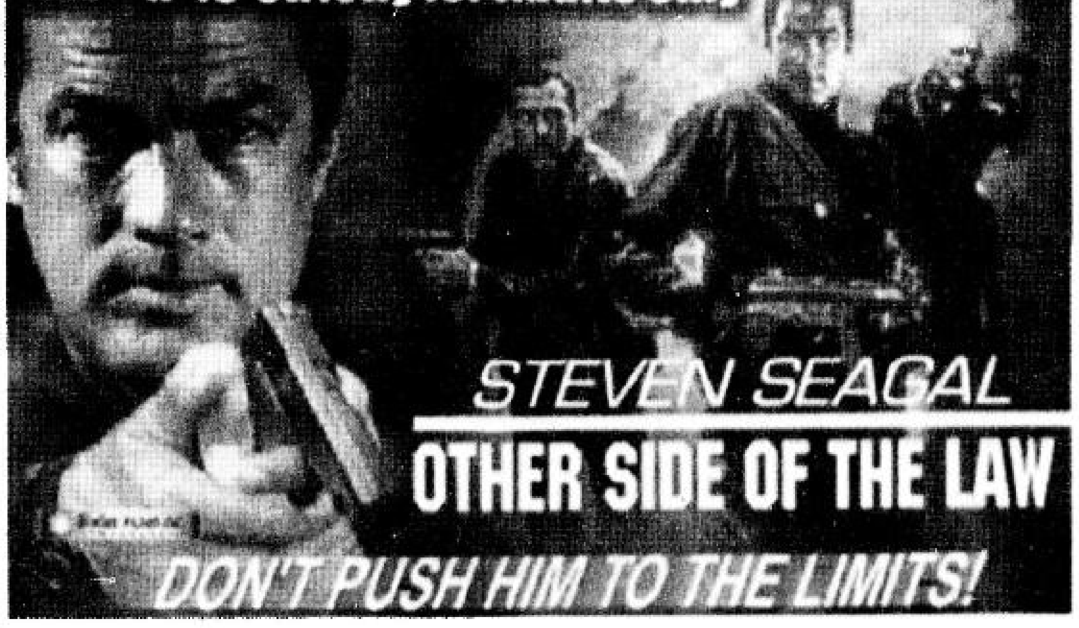
STEVEN SEAGAL
OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
DON'T PUSH HIM TO THE LIMITS!

Incinerators cause cancer, studies say

BY JOEY C.PAPA
Contributor

THERE is sufficient information about incinerators that should make the pro-incinerator mayors of Metro Manila change their minds if they really care for the welfare of their people.

Michelle Allsopp, Pat Costner and Paul Johnston, as well as the research laboratories of Greenpeace International and the University of Exeter of the United Kingdom, have put together a very informative and comprehensive publication, "Incineration and Human Health."

According to the publication, workers in several incinerator facilities in the US, Japan, Germany and Finland, among others, were found vulnerable to the ill effects of dioxins and other organic compounds; and heavy metals, such as aluminum, arsenic, cadmium, lead, and nickel.

Among the workers studied were those from an incinerator in the US, three municipal solid waste incinerators also in US, 94 in Japan, and 66 in Germany.

A study on 176 workers from an incinerator in Sweden revealed an excess of ischemic heart disease, deaths from lung cancer, and increased probability of death from esophageal cancer. Another study conducted in two municipal waste incinerators in Rome found that there was increased probability of death among the workers due to gastric cancer.

Besides the workers in the incinerators, residents of nearby communities were also vulnerable. A study conducted on an area in Doubs, France found out that two types of cancer were highly significant among people living close to the incinerator but not among those who lived farther away.

In the industrial city of Trieste, Italy, it was found out that the prevalence of lung cancer of all types increased among those residing close to the incinerators.

Other studies conducted in Great Britain on the prevalence of liver cancer and other types of cancer also tend to relate this to the "historical exposure patterns around these installations."

The increased probability of childhood cancer was also found in other studies conducted by Knox and

Gilman on areas near municipal and hospital incinerators and other large-scale combustion facilities.

These are just some of the findings that prove there are indeed human health risks from incinerators.

It must be pointed out that it is not only the residents and areas around incinerators that are endangered. Other pollutants are also transported by air to farther areas, affecting the soil, vegetation and other agricultural produce and livestock.

This brings up the issue of contaminated cow's milk which should be another cause of concern for Metro Manila mayors, many of whom may now be grandfathers whose grandchildren may be drinking contaminated cow's millk that come in many forms of attractive but deceptive packaging.

Precautionary principle

What does the publication recommend as the best course of action?

One is the "adoption of the precautionary principle." The authors say that "the burden of proof should not be laid upon the protectors of the environment to demonstrate conclusive harm, but rather on the prospective polluter to demonstrate no likelihood of harm."

The mayors therefore should be asked: Can the proponents of incinerators who are now lobbying actively to have the

Philippine Clean Air Act amended present unassailable proof to counteract the findings that incinerators are harmful?

Another recommendation is the "adoption of zero discharge." This is a call to stop the release of all hazardous substances. This requires that production techniques in industry and agriculture should be clean, but this needs all the necessary "fiscal incentives and enforceable legislation."

Hand in hand with zero discharge is zero waste. Hence, the third recommendation is reduce, re-use, and recycle.

These are the measures specified in the publication:

- Phase out all forms of industrial and municipal incineration by 2020 in line with the OSPAR Convention for the phaseout of emissions, losses and discharges of all hazardous substances also by 2020;
- Institute financial and legal measures to increase re-use of packaging and products;
- Encourage markets for recycled materials by legal requirements for packaging and products to make use of these materials where appropriate;
- Phase out materials that cannot be safely recycled or composted and replaced with sustainable materials;
- For the short term, prevent materials and products that will only add to more hazardous substances in existing incinerators from entering the waste stream. These include electronic equipment, metals and products containing metals such as batteries and fluorescent lamps, PVC plastics such as those for flooring, electrical cables, window frames, and other such products.

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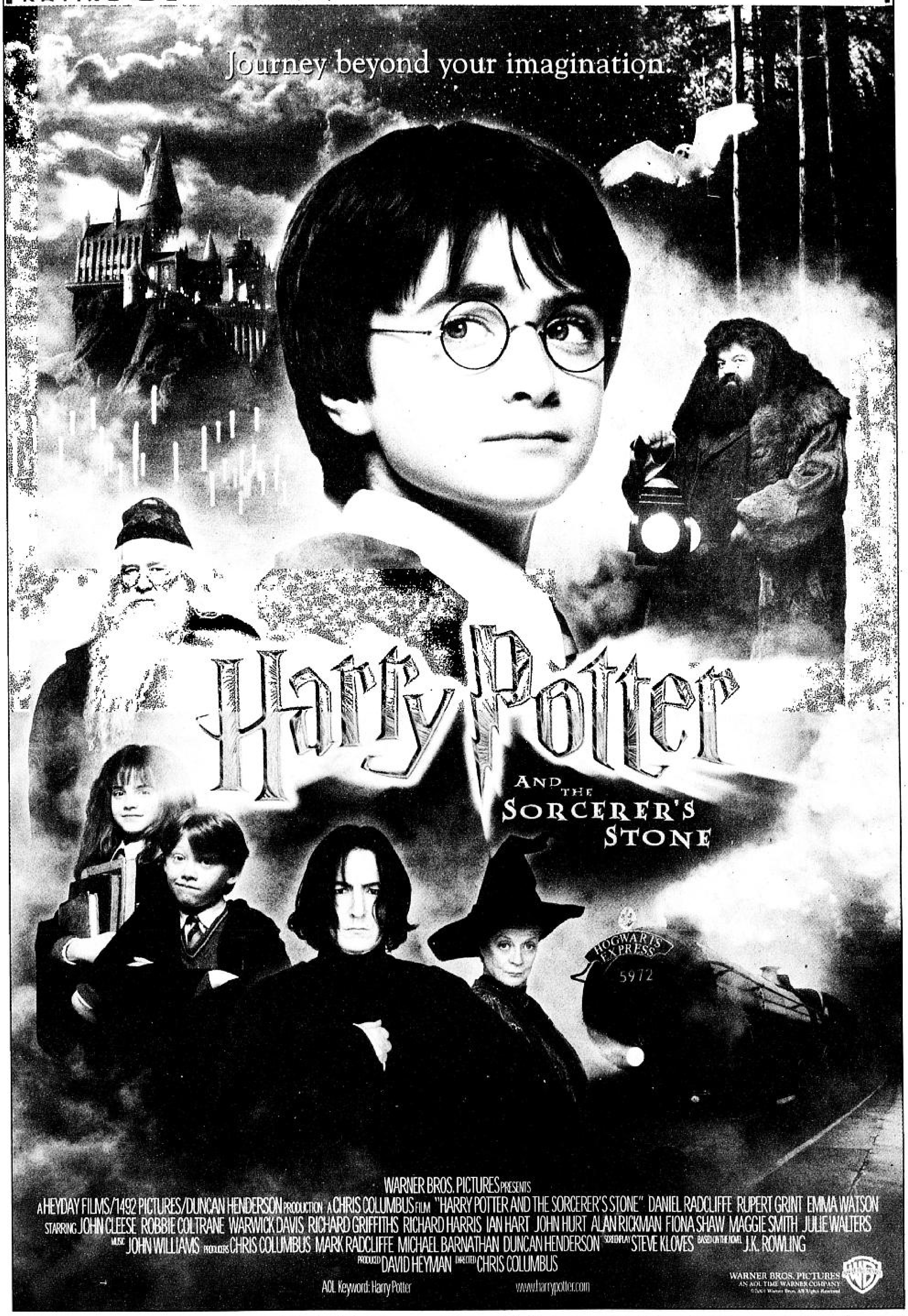

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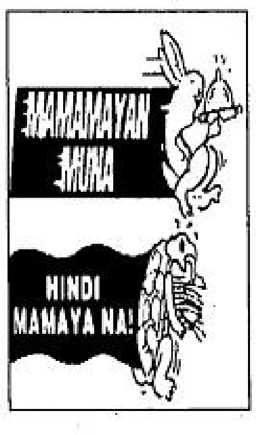

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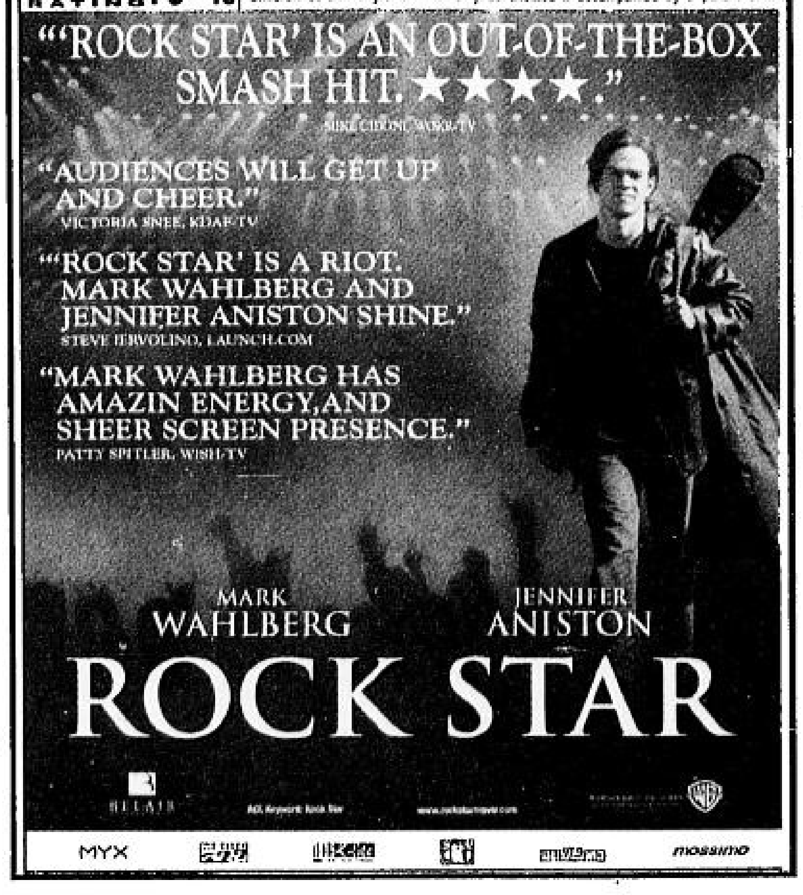

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HARRY POTTER - GP 12:05, 3:15, 6:25, 9:35	GLITTER - P 13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20

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Peso-Dollar Rate
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As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 23, 2001

¥123.22 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 22, 2001

GOLD:$273.10/273.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
Nov. 22, 2001

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 24, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO; Editor ■ **CORRIE S. NARISMA**, Assistant Editor

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Peso seen weakening slightly in 2002

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

DEUTSCHE Bank AG, the fifth biggest financial group in the world, yesterday projected that the peso would weaken to 53-55 to a dollar next year due to what its officials described as a consequence of a "competitive devaluation," a move that should help the country preserve its export gains.

Stressing that the bank was not bearish on the peso, Deutsche regional and local officials explained that the forecast decline in the local currency would be in line with regional movements particularly as global economies adjust to the entry of China to the World Trade Organization.

The bank expects the peso to end this year at 52.50 to $1.

Michael Hellbeck, chief country officer of Deutsche Bank in the Philippines, said the peso's performance next year would depend largely on how fast the country's export sector would rebound.

The bank's chair for Asian operations, Hubert Neiss, said the Deutsche group had good reason to believe that the US economy would recover before the end of the second quarter next year and this would allow the Philippine export sector to bounce back almost at the same time. The United States is the country's biggest export market.

If the export sector would recover quickly and in significant numbers, there was a good chance that the peso would appreciate to as high as 51 to a dollar by the end of 2002, said Peter Redward, Deutsche's currency strategist for Asia.

"We are not bearish on the peso but we see 55 to $1 as a worst-case scenario for next year largely on account of a weakness in the balance-of-payments and inflation rate differential with the US," Redward said.

In its Asia Economics Monthly dated Nov. 9, 2001, Deutsche Bank was more optimistic about the Philippines: "Our medium-term scenario suggests a modest increase in revenues could lead to a sharp reduction in credit risk perceptions. An improving credit profile in 2002 could lead to lower onshore interest rates and a stronger peso."

Redward said the country's dollar remittances were expected to be slightly lower this year compared with last year.

Hellbeck said the bank's position was to stress on the importance of interest rates as a factor to growth rather than on local currency like the peso becoming a psychological hurdle.

Deutsche officials said they believed that local monetary and fiscal authorities must aspire to lower interest rates to stimulate growth in the domestic economy and not to maintain an "ideal" interest rate level to buoy the peso.

"The local currency should be allowed to depreciate modestly while at the same time, the fiscal environment should not create instability in the financial markets," Hellbeck said.

Bank officials said the "political risk premium" that investors usually require when investing in emerging markets like the Philippines should be taken out eventually.

"The central bank is overplaying the importance of interest rate differential in protecting the currency," said one of the bank officials.

Deutsche officials recommended that the policy-making Monetary Board should consider bringing down its overnight rates in the medium term to 6 percent from the current 8.25 percent for borrowing.

Redward said the 91-day treasury bill yield, the benchmark borrowing rate of the government, should consequently slide to 6.25 percent. In the near term, Deutsche officials said the BSP has enough room to bring down interest rates further.

The German bank is projecting a quarter-of-a-percentage point cut in the US short-term interest rates next month and another reduction of the same amount in February.

Shares up on bargain hunting, US pledges

STOCKS closed at the highest level in seven weeks yesterday with the main index up 2.01 percent, cheered for the second day by economic and military assistance pledged by the United States to the Philippines.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 21.40 points to 1,088.46. But turnover fell to 1.155 billion shares worth P495 million compared to 1.75 billion shares worth P702 million traded on Thursday.

"The market has fallen 18 percent since Sept. 11 so we're seeing continued bargain hunting," said Elline Salvatierra of KGI Securities.

Brokers said the market took heart from the success of President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the United States, where she said she obtained about $100 million in military assistance and $2 billion in investment pledges as well as economic aid.

"We are now eligible for debt relief to the extent that we would spend more for forest conservation, our debt to the US government will be condoned," Ms Macapagal said on her arrival yesterday. She said the arrangement would cover about $430 million.

The three-day rally brought the composite index to a seven-week high.

"I think those who missed the rally (Thursday) are trying to catch up," said Jacob Nocom of Asiasec Equities.

"The carryover positive sentiment propped up the market.

First, there was the September budget deficit which was better than expected. Then, we have these investment pledges and military aid from the US. It also helped that we were coming from oversold levels," said AB Capital Securities stock analyst Jose Vistan.

Reuters, AFP

AB Capital taking over GK Goh accounts

AB Capital Securities said yesterday it would take over trade in Philippine stocks for Singapore brokerage GK Goh, which is pulling out of Manila.

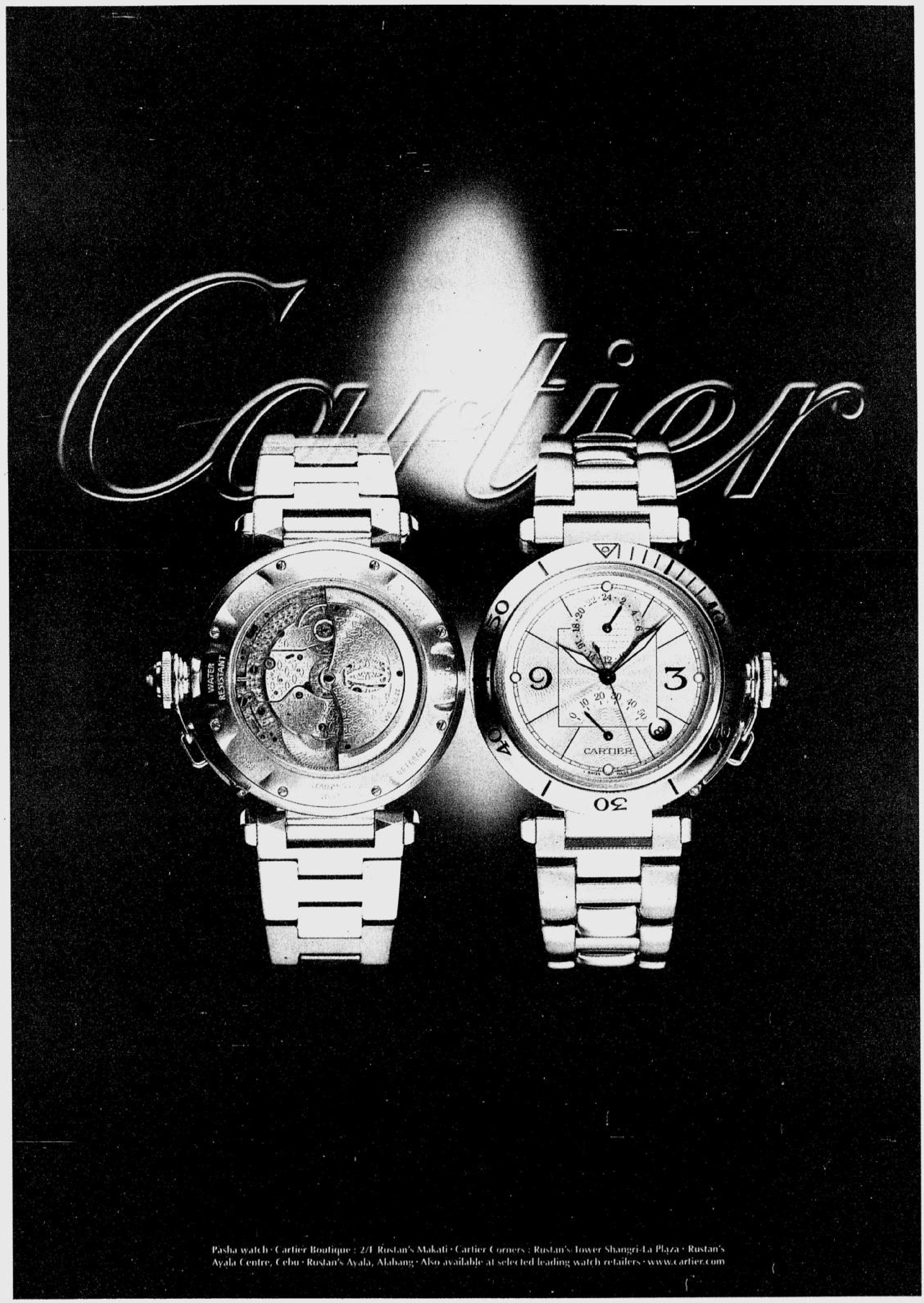
GK Goh said late last month it was closing its Philippine operations because it wanted to reduce its overhead as stock market volumes and performances in Asia were suffering.

"GK Goh Securities (Phils.) Inc. has endorsed and forwarded all its accounts to its designated broker, AB Capital Securities, to handle the distribution of shares to their beneficial owners," AB Capital said.

AB Capital would take over on Dec. 3, it said.

The Philippine stock exchange—Asia's worst performer of 2001—will have lost 13 foreign brokers by the end of the year, the market suffering from chronic poor liquidity and bearish sentiment.

Reuters



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Go out and bought

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SAN FRANCISCO—To show their love for their country, Americans have to go shopping. Really, at this time in this land of plenty, it is the patriotic duty of every citizen to spend.

Poor Americans! They already enjoy the highest standard of living in the whole world. Now, their government wants them to splurge some more. What a sacrifice!

For instance, Thanksgiving Day is the most important holiday in the United States. That was last Thursday. By tradition, shops should be closed.

Instead of working hard on assembling a new wardrobe at the mall, Americans normally spend time with family on Thanksgiving Day, no matter where the family lives.

This time, however, their government wishes they could set aside self-interest. Why can't they just go out and buy something? So shops are open for business.

* * *

STRONG consumer spending, you see, is the hope of the US economy. It is down, and doomsayers say it can go down some more. These days they are even talking of deflation.

It's the flip side of inflation, and inflation is so bad, every government in the planet tries hard to keep it under control. If inflation is bad, its opposite must be good.

Well, not really! Economists here in the US are worried about deflation. Imagine, prices are going down! Heaven help us! Next thing you know, everything is free.

In theory, deflation is bad, only because it is the result of a chain reaction. And it's all because people don't want to do their patriotic duty to borrow money just to shop.

To make people spend, manufacturers must cut prices. So they lose money. They go bankrupt. The economy goes on a tailspin. Not spending is really that bad!

* * *

WHEN, for whatever reason, Americans become tightfisted, countries like ours suffer. It means we ship less electronics and garments to the United States.

This year, our exports will likely drop by more than 15 percent. And it's mainly because the US economy is suffering. Orders from here thinned out.

So if every American buys another pair of jeans, which he or she does not need, anyway, our garment makers can probably get some more orders.

Lawrence delos Santos, a garment company executive who joined the Gloriaetta visit, says he is discussing next season's trend with his regular customers.

If the trip will yield specific orders, so much the better it is for him. His company is among the biggest garment makers in the Philippines. He can get orders, why not?

And that was why, in Gloriaetta's visit to the US, she met with CEOs of US garment companies. She asked them, please, buy some more from us. Right away, boss.

But as it is, about two-thirds of our garment exports already go to the United States. We cannot allow the Americans to become stingy. Or, worse, un-cool!

* * *

IN Gloriaetta's meeting with the US buyers of garments from the Philippines, they talked about problems. Both sides, the buyers and the sellers, have plenty of those.

Now, Gloriaetta started her stint in the government at the Garments and Textile Export Board, or the GTEB. She must have a soft spot for the industry.

Quota is the biggest problem of our garment makers. There are limits on what they can ship here at preferential tariff. Why? For protection, of course.

The US textile industry is one of the strongest lobbyists this side of the Pacific. Well, it is hurting from cheap imports from Asia, mostly from China. Every country does.

Gloriaetta just can't ask George Bush for higher quota. It is wishing for the moon. If Pareng George gives in to her request, he is committing political suicide.

In the Pinoy local version, it's just like Gloriaetta's asking our senators to set aside politics. What? And give up all those quotes and sound bites?

* * *

EVEN in the US Congress, anyway, garment quota is a sensitive issue. The US Congress practices protectionism much more than we do siesta.

So the garments people who joined Gloriaetta in the US visit may just settle for something lower than a quota increase. It's called "full flexibility."

That has nothing to do with contortionists in the circus. Full flexibility, when applied on the quota, is similar to nylon or lycra. You know—stretchable.

Let's say jeans are hot in the US this season, and bikini briefs are not. What we are asking the US for is, can we export jeans up to the extent we can export bikini briefs?

Such an adjustment, based on the world history of quota, still falls under the category of wistful thinking. It's hard to get. Not even through Pareng George.

* * *

IN a way, our garment makers may just have to fight it out with the big boys over non-quota items. These are mostly the high-end products like suits.

In the US today, as a result of the IT boom, casual dressing is still the fad. But reports are saying it's not going to be long before the suit can make a comeback.

Now there's no way our garment companies can compete if they remain mom-and-pop shops. It works in the fishball retail business, not in garments.

The way Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas put it, what happened in our banking sector must happen in garments. No, he was not talking about bad debts.

What he wants is consolidation. Then they are no longer the small guys. They can bully the others out of the US market.

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IT firm raising capital, infusing new investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

OIL exploration firm-turned-information technology upstart Imperial Resources Inc. is raising its authorized capital to P10 billion from P4 billion to pave the way for new investments in the IT sector.

Imperial corporate secretary Vicente Acsay said the additional equity would be divided into shares of stock. Of the total shares, 70 percent would come in the form of class A shares while 30 percent would be class B stocks with a par value of P5.

This is in line with the company's efforts to infuse capital and technology into and explore opportunities in the following IT areas: digital communication, online media, prepaid and postpaid card service, Internet service provider, and Web services and information content.

Prior to its shift to the technology business, Imperial was into oil exploration business that it started in 1960. It is now keen on forging strategic alliances with foreign and domestic telephone companies and content providers, equipment suppliers and system integrators.

Earlier, Imperial tied up with the Tata group, India's largest conglomerate known for its IT empire, in order to go full-blast into the IT education business.

Mumbai-based Tata Infotech Ltd. had entered into a licensing agreement with Philippine Cyber College Corp., a 99-percent owned subsidiary of Imperial.

Under the agreement, the IT know-how, courseware, educational materials and teachers' training will be supplied by TIL. PCC, in turn, will pay TIL the so-called know-how fee and royalty based on tuition collected. The agreement will remain in effect in three years subject to renewal by mutual consent.

The Tata group is a pioneer in the field of software development, networking, hardware manufacture, software distribution and education. Its education division offers content development, courseware delivery including e-commerce, using the medium of computer-based training, Web and classroom teaching to more than 30,000 students every year.

Earlier, Imperial also entered into a share-swap deal that would allow it to acquire the majority control of Web Link Philippines Inc., an Internet service provider in southern Philippines.

PNOC unit gets 5-year, $30-M Japanese loan

STATE-OWNED PNOC Energy Development Corp., the geothermal arm of Philippine National Oil Co., yesterday sealed another five-year loan worth $30 million from the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.

The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. loan came right after PNOC-EDC secured a $110-million, five-year financing from JP Morgan Chase.

Department of Finance officials said the $30-million loan would be used by the geothermal company to partly pay its $150 million worth of maturing euro bond obligations next month.

JP Morgan Chase was willing to lend PNOC-EDC the full amount it needed to cover its maturing obligations, but adverse market conditions brought about by the Sept. 11 attacks on the US forced the investment bank to reduce its commitment to $110 million.

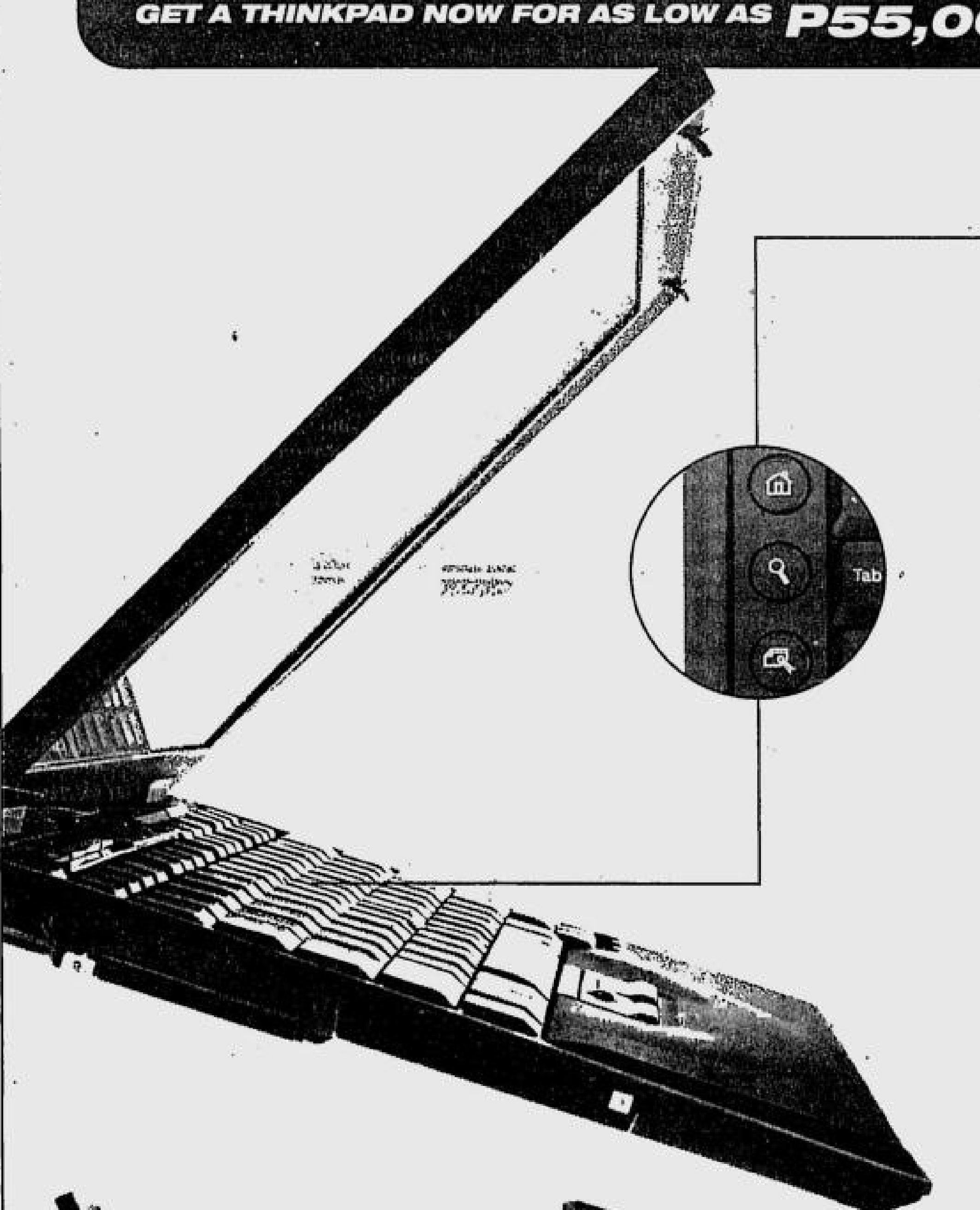
"Despite the prevailing market volatility, the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi's commitment to make this financing immediately available to PNOC at favorable terms surely sends the right signal to prospective investors," said Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio in a statement.

The loan will carry a yield of 3.85 percentage points over six-month London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor).

PNOC-EDC president Sergio Apostol earlier said the JP Morgan loan would carry a yield of 6.5 percentage points over six-month Libor of about 2.7 percent.

Tetsuya Ota, general manager of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, said the $30-million loan was the third financing facility arranged by the bank for the state-owned company.

The first involved a 12-billion yen worth of syndicated loan in 1999, followed by a 22-billion yen private placement last year.



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Piatco deal feared to create monopoly

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE FREEDOM to Fly Coalition, a non-government organization pushing for civil aviation liberalization, is asking the government to ensure that the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. will not have a monopoly of terminal concessions and international gateways under its controversial contract to build the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

The coalition finds itself on the same side as taipan Lucio Tan whom the group has locked horns with last year over the air dispute between the Philippines and Taiwan. The coalition had blamed Tan's Philippine Airlines for the government's decision to suspend air traffic between the two countries for several months on allegations that Taiwanese airlines were poaching PAL's US-bound passengers.

This time, the coalition and Tan, who was part of the Asian Emerging Dragons Corp. which was originally designated to build Naia 3, are opposing the grant of a monopoly contract to Piatco.

Coalition chair Narzalina Z. Lim urged the government to expedite its ongoing study of the contract and ensure that the review would be made in a transparent manner.

The former tourism undersecretary said the government should ensure that there would be competition among concessionaires in the airport and that Piatco would not monopolize these services. The coalition is particularly worried that Piatco might slap exorbitant terminal fees on airline passengers in a monopoly deal.

In another development, former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair and now spokesperson of MIAA-Naia Association of Service Operators Perfecto Yasay strongly opposed the transfer of Philippine Airline's international operations to the Naia terminal 3.

Yasay said such a move would signal the start of PAL's collapse since the transfer would definitely be unprofitable for the airline.

In a public hearing conducted Tuesday by the House good government committee chaired by Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez, Yasay disclosed that putting the international and domestic operations of PAL under one roof was one of the basis for the approval of its rehabilitation plan by the SEC and the airline's foreign creditors in 1999.

Separating its international operations from the domestic operations is expected to render the airline's operations unprofitable.

Meantime, Lim said the Piatco deal should not impose limitations on the development of other Luzon airports as international gateways as part of the concession agreement. For example, the Piatco deal puts a cap on the terminal capacity to be built in Clark.

DTI junks petition for dumping duty

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has slammed the door on dominant Philippine glass maker Republic Asahi Glass Inc.'s appeal for the imposition of an anti-dumping duty on clear figured glass imports from China.

In its decision, the DTI ruled that it found no merit in RAGC's motion to reverse the agency's earlier decision because the glassmaker could not establish the price difference between its products and the imports. The DTI opined that the injury suffered by the domestic industry was due to causes other than dumping.

The DTI had already dismissed RAGC's appeal because the adjusted export prices of the Chinese glass were greater than the adjusted normal values of clear figure glass from China with thickness of 3 millimeters, 5 mm, and 5.5 mm.

RAGC charged two Chinese firms—Shanghai Ta-Yuan Glass Co. Ltd. and Shanghai Cen Eagle International Trading Co. Ltd.—of dumping 1,737 metric tons of clear figured glass into the country. RAGC said this dumped glass accounted for roughly 30 percent of the total clear glass imports in 1999.

RAGC said the Chinese clear figure glass, used in construction of buildings, were being sold at a discount of as much 45.3 percent off its export price.

This is the second setback for RAGC at the DTI which had rejected its petition last year for anti-dumping duties on tinted float glass from Indonesia because the Philippine glassmaker accounted for more than 90 percent of the country's imports of this commodity.

But RAGC also has its share of victories. Last year, the DTI approved RAGC's petition to impose anti-dumping duties of up to $152.63 per metric ton on clear glass imports from Indonesia and Malaysia. The DTI noted that Indonesian and Malaysian clear glass imports accounted for 40.56 percent and 8.54 percent, respectively, of total imports which more than satisfies the minimum requirement for an anti-dumping duty case of 3 percent.

Equitable PCI's BSP loan down to ₱5.1B

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's fourth largest lender, may be able to settle in full its remaining obligations to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas this year after making another payment yesterday amounting to P1 billion.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the payment brought down Equitable PCI's remaining obligation with the central bank to P5.1 billion out of the P30 billion in emergency loan the bank tapped late last year.

"The bank plans to settle its remaining obligations early next year but it may be able to do it earlier," said Reyes.

He said Equitable PCI's ability to win back a big number of the depositors it lost last year allowed the bank to substantially reduce its obligations to the BSP. The bank has so far paid P24.9 billion or 80 percent of the emergency loan.

The bank sought the central bank's assistance late last year to early this year due to heavy withdrawals triggered by reports implicating the bank in the "juetengate" scandal.

Reyes said the bank was able to realize significant earnings from its dollar remittance business.

Equitable PCI wants to retire its obligations with the BSP at the soonest time to reduce its interest expenses. The central bank loan incurs an interest rate equivalent to treasury bill rates plus three percentage points for a total of about 15 percent.

Foreign direct investments post 50% drop

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

TOTAL investments in new Philippine companies in terms of authorized capitalization dropped 29 percent to P53.63 billion in the first nine months of the year from P75.94 billion in the same period last year.

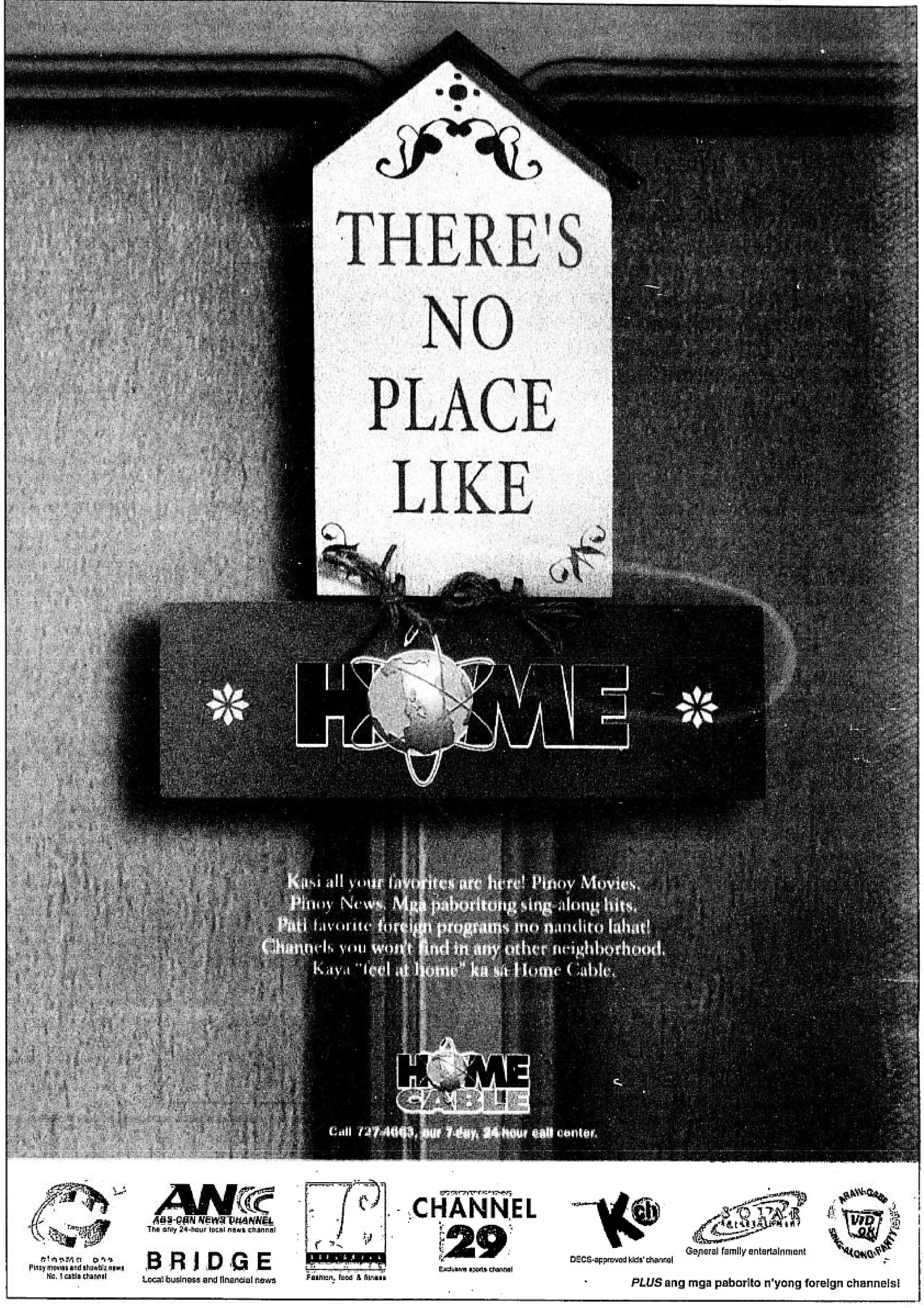
In a statement, the SEC noted that total foreign direct investments in new and existing domestic companies likewise declined. In terms of paid-up capital, FDIs decreased in the first nine months of the year by almost 50 percent to P8.75 billion from P16 billion in the same period last year.

Among existing companies, only 366 increased their authorized capital stock by P51.58 billion or 40 percent less than the P130 billion capital stock increases recorded in the comparative period last year.

The SEC said that in terms of subscribed and paid-up capital, investments in new domestic corporations declined by a corresponding 28 percent and 30 percent to P19.57 billion and P11,33 billion, respectively.

By geographic distribution, majority of the new corporations were located in Luzon. The National Capital Region accounted for 6,852 corporations with paid-up capital of P8.76 billion or 77 percent of the total paid-up capital investment during the nine-month period.

Southern Tagalog was a distant second, accounting for 843 corporations with paid-up capital of P1.51 billion, while Central Luzon came in third with 512 companies and paid-up capital of P450 million.



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2pm - 3pm	New Technology Tools & Equipment, Chemical Products & Assembly Systems For Use in the Automotive Industry	Centro-Aire Inc.
4pm - 5pm	Magnetic Treatment of Fuel	Taylan Int'l.
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1 December 2001		
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1pm - 2pm	New POLYGuard Bull Bars Launching	Liftruk Int'l Trading
2pm - 3pm	Universal Tools Presentation	Wiha Far East Company
3pm - 4pm	Defensive Driving Seminar	Nissan Motor Philippines
4pm - 5pm	Eyquem Spark Plugs Presentation	Eascorp Automotive
5pm - 6pm	Uniq Engine Treatment Product Presentation	Bizcom Int'l Corp.
2 December 2001		
3pm - 4pm	Product Presentation	Dayco Automotive Belts
5pm - 6pm	Turbo Stormy Air-Fuel Mixture Technology Demonstration	Bizcom Int'l Corp.

FREE ADMISSION
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DISCLOSURES

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. announced the resignation of E.V. Pajao and Froilan De Dios as corporate secretary and assistant corporate secretary, respectively. Appointed to replace Pajao was Maria D. R. Angeles. Elected as director of the company was Romeo Versula.

* * *

MUSIC Corp. announced the resignation of Dennis Goquinco as director of the company.

* * *

DIVERSIFIED Financial Network Inc. denied having any knowledge that could explain the 40-percent drop in its share price.

* * *

FORTUNE Cement Corp. disclosed the resignation of Jose Sio as director of the company.

* * *

SHAREHOLDERS of **Imperial Resources Inc.** approved the proposed increase in the company's authorized capital stock from P4 billion to P10 billion.

* * *

SUN Life Financial announced the resignation of James Henkal as vice president and corporate secretary of the company. Thomas Bogart was appointed acting corporate secretary.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Estates Corp.** were Antonio Henson, Dee Hua Gatchalian, Elvira Ting, Kenneth Gatchalian, Lisandro Abadia, Yolanda dela Cruz, Arthur Lopez, Renato Magadia, Angel Umali, Arthur Ponsaran and Joaquin Obieta.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 10,000 shares at P8 per share on Nov. 21. This is in connection with its stock buyback program.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Bank of the Philippine Islands** declared a cash dividend of P0.80 per share on the total outstanding common shares of its capital stock to stockholders of record as of the 15th day from receipt of the approval of the **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.**

* * *

THE BOARD of **Philodrill Corp.** resolved to call for a final payment on all outstanding 1994 subscriptions to the capital stock of the company.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.**, has acquired an additional 28,000 shares at P4.25 per share and 400,000 shares at P4.30 per share of **Universal Robina Corp.**

* * *

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro repurchased 70,000 common shares at P0.79 per share and 200,000 common shares at P0.81 per share on Nov. 19. It has likewise approved the corporate consolidation plan involving CADP, **CADP Consultancy Services Inc., CADP Farm Services Inc.** and **Phoenix Sugar Corp.** *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

NOTICE OF CONTRACTOR'S LIEN
AGAINST MEGAWORLD GLOBUS ASIA, INC.

This serves as a constructive notice to the whole world of a Contractor's Lien worth P62 Million currently attached on all units of the Salcedo Park Twin Towers condominium project, located at de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila, owned by MEGAWORLD GLOBUS ASIA, INC. The Contractor's Lien exists in favor of DSM CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, by virtue of a Decision of an Arbitral Tribunal of the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission in CIAC Case No. 22-2000 promulgated on 19 October 2001, which Decision orders as follows:

AWARD

Respondent (MEGAWORLD GLOBUS ASIA, INC.) is therefore ordered to pay Claimant (DSM CONSTRUCTION & DEV. CORP.) the amount of SIXTY TWO MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT PESOS AND FORTY NINE CENTAVOS (P62,760,558.49) fifteen (15) days from the promulgation of this decision. Thereafter, interest of six percent (6%) shall be due on any balance remaining until the award becomes executory. Thereafter, interest of twelve percent (12%) per annum shall be applied on any balance remaining until the full amount is paid.

To protect its claim, DSM CONSTRUCTION has annotated and attached its Contractor's Lien on all Condominium Certificates of Titles of the Salcedo Park Twin Towers project.

For the protection of the public, particularly prospective buyers, notice and warning are hereby made that all transactions on the above condominium titles, by operation of law, carry an encumbrance of P62 Million in favor of DSM CONSTRUCTION which is enforceable against any and all buyers of the units until the lien is fully discharged.

(Sgd). **Atty. Wilfredo M. Garrido, Jr.**
Counsel for DSM Construction & Development Corporation
GARRIDO & ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICES
Suite 2517 Herrera Tower, Herrera Corner Valero Streets
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 892-0890; 892-0896

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, November 23, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	52	50.5	51.5	388,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	443,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	180	180	177	180	134,250
Philippine National Bank	48	48.5	48	48.5	111,400
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	18	18	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	13.75	14.5	13.75	14.5	141,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	200,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	240	240	240	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1330	1310	1315	1,550
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1125	1100	1125	11,640
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	23,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.34	4,000,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	570	570	570	6,140
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	210,000
Piltel	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	70,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	140,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	395	400	392.5	392.5	33,010
Ivantage Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	150,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.019	251,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	24.5	23	24.25	48,200
Manila Electric Co. B	28	30.5	28	29.5	3,512,900
Petron Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.32	1.32	14,519,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1	1	0.88	0.9	730,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.54	1.6	1.52	1.54	9,843,000
Construction & Other RelatED PRODUC TS					
AGP Industrial Corp B	3	3	3	3	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	550,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.04	1.42	1.04	1.42	449,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	57,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	446,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	24	23.5	23.5	48,600
RFM Corporation	1.94	2	1.94	1.96	1,312,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	42	41	42	208,300
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.5	57,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.37	0.54	0.37	0.5	340,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.52	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	7,875,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.06	4,900,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	55,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.6	0.56	0.58	1,420,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.22	0.185	0.22	430,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.64	0.59	0.61	18,500,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.15	6,560,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.91	0.99	0.91	0.96	1,550,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.25	25.5	24.25	25	406,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Ionics Inc.	5.8	6	5.7	6	320,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.48	419,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.64	3,150,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.31	21,930,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.42	0.36	0.36	13,050,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	200,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	1,050,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	2,260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10.25	10	10	507,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	190,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.25	24.75	24.25	24.5	1,262,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	400
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	530	530	530	530	2,280
Globe Tel. A - Warrants	405	405	405	405	84,000
Jollibee Warrants	11	11	11	11	10,000
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0012	0.0014	0.0012	0.0012	45,000,000
RFM Corporation - Pref.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	10,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.005	0.0055	557,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.8	3,963,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.175	0.2	0.175	0.19	2,370,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,520,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.245	0.22	0.235	22,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.62	1.54	1.6	13,180,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.4	6	6.2	5,182,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,500,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.8	51,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.021	7,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	430,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	12,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	35,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	31,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.0032	0.003	0.0032	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	300,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,432,240	74,906,290.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,000,585,330	340,741,280.00
PRO	50,786,000	78,499,720.00
Mining	57,041,000	804,150.00
OIL	44,880,000	172,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,154,724,570	495,124,240.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	436.75	UP 7.47
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,506.05	UP 31.21
PRO	490.03	UP 10.06
Mining	957.76	DOWN 7.79
OIL	1.26	DOWN 0.08
All Shares Index	681.49	UP 10.66
Composite	1,088.46	UP 21.40

NO. OF ADVANCES: 58; NO. OF DECLINES: 13; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105 NO. OF TRADES: 3,764

CURRENCIES

Nov. 23, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.137398	1.000000	51.9760
Japan	Yen	0.009239	0.008123	0.4222
United Kingdom	Pound	1.609418	1.415000	73.5460
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146008	0.128370	6.6722
Switzerland	Franc	0.688164	0.605034	31.4472
Canada	Dollar	0.710652	0.624805	32.4749
Singapore	Dollar	0.619497	0.544662	28.3094
Australia	Dollar	0.586893	0.515996	26.8194
Bahrain	Dinar	3.017130	2.652661	137.8747
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304117	0.267380	13.8973
Brunei	Dollar	0.618151	0.543478	28.2478
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025652	0.022553	1.1722
UAE	Dirham	0.309749	0.272331	14.1547
Korea	Won	0.000895	0.000787	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.879200	45.6973
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.449528	23.3647
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134033	6.9665
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.398964	20.7366
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.063894	3.3210
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021795	1.1328
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000454	0.0236
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147871	7.6857
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004385	0.2279
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005284	0.2746
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021795	1.1328
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.116354	58.0236

Universal McCann unveils global media study

ADULTS in Turkey suffer the most headaches. Morning and afternoon meriendas are a distinctly Pinoy phenomenon. You're most likely to become a victim of road rage on Monday morning in the United States, the United Kingdom or Taiwan, but beware Monday afternoon and Friday mornings in the Philippines. Upscale men and women, aged 25 to 35, are more likely to skip breakfast than other adults. Car owners in Ireland and Spain enjoy seeing car ads on TV—but car owners in Norway, Sweden, and the Czech Republic don't.

Esoteric factoids from some megabuck game show clone? No, more like tiny drops in an electronic ocean of insights discovered in a massive global research study called Media in Mind, launched in the Philippines by Universal McCann recently at the Powerplant Cinema.

Jim Kite, UM's director of global research, flew in from London to introduce and provide a global overview of MIM; Maita Consulta, UM Philippines' media research director, provided a detailed and extensive local perspective.

Started in 1997 by Universal McCann, the global media agency of McCann-Erickson World Group, MIM is a continuing proprietary research initiative: one with big objectives, offering big solutions, run on the biggest scale possible.

In place in 42 countries, with 60,000 respondents to date, and occupying 1.6 gigabytes in the hard drives at UM's head office, MIM offers a truly global view of media. By integrating minutely detailed tracking research on a wide range of target markets and product categories, MIM plots regular consumers' everyday lives to create a fascinating mosaic of how the world uses and relate to media.

With its extraordinary detail and scope, MIM promises to expand market knowledge and ultimately open new opportunities, both for UM's clients and its media professionals.

According to UM managing director Venus Navalta, "we can now say with more authority that we send the right message at the right time, in the right way and through the right medium. We will not waste our resources by striving to make consumers pay attention to us when they are simply 'out of range' physically, emotionally and mentally."

Like its subjects the consumers, MIM is always evolving. MIM Wave 2 is already being prepared for fieldwork in Metro Manila. Soon, UM will launch Total Impact Planner—a new proprietary software which estimates the genuine net reach of multimedia campaigns.

MCCANN-ERICKSON, AGAIN...

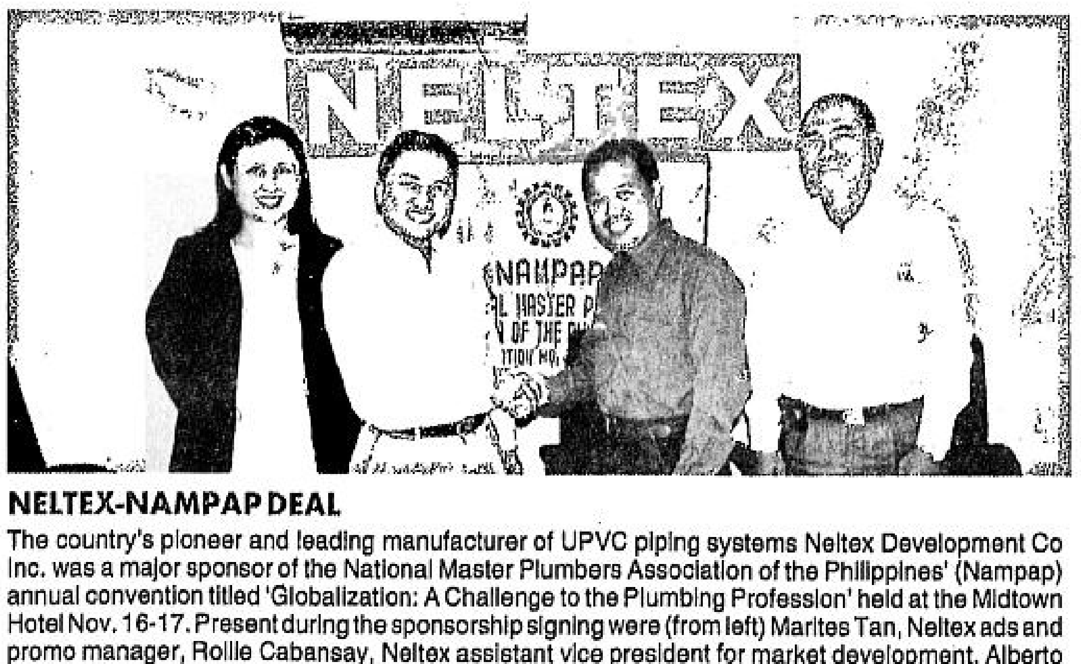
...And again. McCann-Erickson Philippines dominated the 2000 4As agency of the year awards by garnering the Agency of the Year award and three out of five category awards. This is the third win for McCann after getting the top award in 1997 and 1998. Shown during the awarding ceremonies were (from left) Venus Navalta, SVP-media; Maira Catacutan, account manager; Rudy Villar, account manager; Micky Domingo, VP and executive creative director; Nandy Villar, VP-strategic planning; Alex Arellano, creative director; Bobbie Domingo, business unit director; Susan Dimacali, SVP-client service; Patricia Arches, president and COO; Toti Soliongco, AVP-account service; Angel Guerrero, business unit director; Tricia Camarillo, business unit director; Joey Venezuela, SVP; Jamie Garaci, account executive; Claire Mangoba, senior account executive; Hans Lopez-Vito, strategic planning director; Emily Abrera, chair and CEO; Mon Samarista, media strategist; Shai Riofrio, account executive; Mariz Barredo, media strategist and Cookie Bartolome, AVP and media director.

21ST CENTURY BANKING SOLUTIONS

DTI Undersecretary Gregory Domingo cuts the ribbon together with George Ruffner, senior commercial officer of the US Embassy, commercial section at the launching of the 21st Century Banking Solutions at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel recently. Also shown are Zoilo Jesus M. de la Cruz and Susan H. de la Cruz, chair/CEO and executive vice president of Infoserve International Inc., Sandeep Lalwani of Infobahn, Mae Rivera and Edwin Boon, marketing communications manager and director for partner business group of Microsoft.

AUTHENTIC DUMPLINGS AT GYOZATEI

Gyozatei Authentic Japanese Dumplings restaurant opened recently along Tomas Morato Avenue (corner Scout Madriñan) in Quezon City. Shown during the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (front row, from left) Reynaldo C. Mendoza, Gyozatei Phils Corp. board chair; Toshio Suzuki, Gyozatei Japan chair, Avelino Mendoza Sr, Katsumi Suzuki, Gyozatei Japan president. Also shown are (back row, from left) Jhie C. Tinio, corporate secretary and Jun Jun Mendoza. Gyozatei offers the taste of unique and authentic Japanese shrimp dumplings ("gyoza") and other Japanese food specialties.



NELTEX-NAMPAP DEAL

The country's pioneer and leading manufacturer of UPVC piping systems Neltex Development Co Inc. was a major sponsor of the National Master Plumbers Association of the Philippines' (Nampap) annual convention titled 'Globalization: A Challenge to the Plumbing Profession' held at the Midtown Hotel Nov. 16-17. Present during the sponsorship signing were (from left) Marites Tan, Neltex ads and promo manager, Rollie Cabansay, Neltex assistant vice president for market development, Alberto Cabael, Nampap national president, and engineer Ricardo Vasquez, Nampap convention chair.

Spirit of volunteerism spanning decades

FOR HALF a century, the name of legendary actress Rosa Rosal is synonymous to the Red Cross Blood Program. Rosal has tapped the help of generous companies and individuals to ensure the continuous operations of the National Blood Program.

Her longstanding involvement with the Red Cross began in 1950 when she volunteered to join a vigorous campaign for voluntary blood donations. During that time, Red Cross had difficulty getting blood donors because of the misconception concerning its harmful side effects. Nevertheless, her tireless efforts on promoting the blood drive became successful. Not only did she recruit blood donors, she also managed to solicit more funds to support the program.

Throughout the years, Rosal spearheaded numerous projects and activities for the Red Cross. She has raised millions of pesos to upgrade the services and facilities of the Red Cross, such as an HIV blood machine, low-cost laboratory blood tests, and refrigerated centrifuge. More importantly, she inspired many to support her cause to join her annual blood drive. Among them are the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Citizen's Military Training Cadets and countless individuals who have extended their material and financial support to the Red Cross.

Rosa Rosal continues to devote her time and energy to the Red Cross. Her most recent achievement is the tie-up with the leading isopropyl alcohol brand in the country, Green Cross. Heeding Rosal's appeal, Green Cross signed an agreement with the Red Cross to support and help the organization's many socio-civic activities. Together with Red Cross, Green Cross committed to help and protect the lives of Filipino people. By providing product supplies and financial assistance for the day-to-day operations of the Red Cross, both parties were able to achieve success in their socio-civic undertakings.

"Only those with a generous spirit can be capable of dedication towards helping others, and we are fortunate to have Green Cross to aid us in our humanitarian cause. So, I look forward to the day when Green Cross would become our lifetime partner at Red Cross," Rosal concludes.

Murdoch, Esteban schools run full MBA program

HASTINGS

DR. KATHLEEN J. Hastings is a lecturer of marketing from Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia. She has taught in various Australian graduate degree programs as well as consulted on marketing strategies for international organizations.

Murdoch University is now running a full MBA program in association with The Esteban School in Manila. On Jan. 4, 2002, Hastings will be facilitating the marketing module. Participants who have successfully completed the course will receive a certificate of completion from the Esteban School in conjunction with Murdoch University. Those who decide to take the assessment and are successful and subsequently decide to join the Murdoch Manila MBA Program, will be granted credit for the course taken. Successful participants can begin their MBA program by February 2002. For details, call 844-2812 or 887-6391.

Three major causes of death can now be history

The world's largest non-prescription medical company launches Unicity Network, its newest high-tech division in the Philippines. Two free medical symposiums for Inquirer readers are scheduled this Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 24 and 25. Those concerned about their health are encouraged to attend and entrepreneurs are being sought as spokespersons.

Finally, there's a "back to basic" approach to this serious health challenge that's being offered here in the Philippines by the largest nutritional company in the world. Royal Numico is a global giant with a rich tradition of wellness going back over 100 years and their newest division, Unicity Network, will be discussing this in a free, one-hour seminar on Sunday. Ongoing research worldwide continues to support many of the significant findings of this high-tech medical company and Inquirer readers will learn about:

- A new patented formula of nutrients, amino acids and minerals proven to dissolve existing plaque deposits in coronary arteries.
- A diet high in soluble fiber that helps reduce cholesterol and reduce the risk of heart disease, colon cancer, hypertension, stroke, diabetes and other diseases.
- Stabilization of blood sugar levels achieved naturally, thereby avoiding the use of insulin and other potentially harmful medications.

According to Dr. Franklin Murphy, "It is extremely difficult to obtain soluble fiber in a healthy diet and, as a result, over 90 percent of us do not reach the optimum levels. If you don't get an optimum amount of fiber, a fiber supplement made up of a combination of both soluble and insoluble fibers is recommended."

Now there's hope, even for those who won't change their diet. The answer, soluble fiber.

In the highly acclaimed book "Anti-Aging Secrets", the only fiber supplement that is recommended is the Bios Life 2 Natural Advanced Fiber and Nutrient Drink Mix.

Offered exclusively in the Philippines by Unicity Network. This tasty and inexpensive formula was developed by Unicity and carries two US patents for the "Method and Composition for the Reduction of Serum Cholesterol". So often, in today's society, we hear of sudden death heart attacks taking fathers of young children long before their jobs are done.

Due to this nutritional breakthrough, we now have the opportunity to use and share with our loved ones a proven, preventive health care program that can dramatically reduce the incidence of heart disease, cancer and diabetes, three major causes of death in America today.

.To attend a free seminar and learn more about this new preventive health care business plan, call: 0917-975-4260 and ask for Jerry Hasson.

CDO launches Christmas sales blitz

MULTI-AWARDED meat processor CDO has officially launched its Christmas sales campaign to provide companies with unique gift packages.

Corporate clients, according to marketing manager Jon Bendicion, have considered CDO Holiday Ham as part of traditional giveaways to employees and business partners.

Bendicion said the company offers five specialty ham variants. "There's a ham that suits everyone's taste and budget," he said. He added the best-seller Holiday ham, priced at P249 per kilo, is considered premium as it is made from whole pork leg muscle.

The CDO Pear-shape ham is the most affordable at P139 per 800 grams. Other variants are American Ham at P185 per kilo, Chinese Ham at P345 per kilo and Hamon de Bola, which is sold for P159 per 850-gram piece.

"Our specialty hams have developed their own loyal patrons because they are fully cooked and reasonably priced, and they come up with elegantly designed gift boxes.

CDO, a three-time recipient of the much-coveted "Best Meat Processing Plant" award givem by the National Meat Commission, has put in place a comprehensive operating system, assuring customers on-time delivery.

CDO hams are retailed in supermarkets, groceries and in company operated outlets. Customers can also phone in their orders at 294-1111.

DDB wins Creative Guild citation

A public service TV ad produced by DDB Philippines Makati office for its PR client Palawan Sustainable Development Staff was adjudged Diwa Ad of the Month for July by the Creative Guild—the award-giving body of the 4As (Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines).

The ad shows a man perched on a hill with his bamboo birdcage all throughout the commercial. Lines from Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" appears and disappears on screen as soon as the sound of chainsaws and falling trees begin to snap the deafening silence. Conceived by creative director Roger Pe and photographed by 2000 Cannes Short Film Grand Prix Winner Raymond Red, it depicts the sad and alarming state of our forest cover today, less than 20 percent of which is remaining.

Launched in July this year, DDB's "Birdcage" recently got a big boost from an ABS-CBN and San Miguel Corp. partnership, pumping more media mileage and making the general citizenry do something about our dwindling natural reserves. It also bagged a silver in the 2001 Pinnacle Awards, DDB's annual worldwide creative competition among its more than 202 offices from across the globe.

ML Quezon High reunion

MANUEL L. Quezon Public High School alumni are all invited to a grand reunion on Dec. 1, Saturday, at Aberdeen Court in Quezon City. For particulars, call Tess Garcia at 360-0843, Au Tolentino at 291-0131 and Ed Manansala at 416-6638.

UST Law 267th reunion

FORMER Senator Victor S. Ziga, president of the UST Law Alumni Foundation Inc., together with the board of trustees and officers, announced the 267th anniversary homecoming and reunion at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Ayala Avenue, Makati City today, Nov. 24, at 7 p.m. Mass will be at 6 p.m. For more information, call Celi Hernaez at 849-2285 and 818-6455, fax 810-3110.

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Republic Cement buys stakes in Seacem group

By Doris C. Dumlao

REPUBLIC Cement Corp., the country's second biggest cement group, is acquiring stakes in the Southeast Asian cement group as part of a new round of consolidation resulting from the merger of its principal shareholders, Lafarge SA of France and Blue Circle Industries Plc. of the United Kingdom.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Republic Cement spokesperson Renato Sunico said the company's board approved on Nov. 22 the purchase of shares in Southeast Asian Cement Holdings Inc., FR Cement Corp., Continental Operating Corp. and Lloyds Richfield Industrial Corp.

He said the purchase of shares at fair market value would "enhance the company's overall business interest and commercial significance in the cement industry."

Also, Sunico announced that Republic Cement would exercise its preemptive rights in Mindanao Portland Cement Corp.'s stock offering equivalent to 99,932 redeemable preferred shares at P1,000 each.

The company has executed a trademark agreement allowing it to use Lafarge's trademarks, trade names, corporate logos and other intellectual properties to benefit from the French company's worldwide reputation and improve its market share.

Lafarge has completed its acquisition of Blue Circle. Its local unit is the Seacem group, one of the country's four biggest cement firms.

Blue Circle controls Republic Cement, which includes Fortune Cement, Iligan Cement and Zeus Holdings Inc.

Once consolidated with Seacem, Republic Cement—as the bigger entity—is expected to be the surviving entity.

The consolidation is seen as a big threat to the Phinma Group, which controls Union Cement Corp., the result of a merger among Bacnotan Cement Corp., Davao Union Cement and Hi-Cement Corp.

Following the merger of its parent company with Blue Circle, Seacem embarked on a corporate restructuring strategy that would lead to the consolidation of Lafarge and Blue Circle's local interests.

GMA WITH BUSINESS LEADERS

Ambassador Jeffrey LS Koo (second from left), chair of Chinatrust Commercial Bank Corp. of Taiwan, exchanges pleasantries with President Macapagal-Arroyo during the 27th Philippine Business Conference. Also welcoming the President are (from left) the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Lucio Tan, Jimmy Tang and Mike Varela.

US firms interested in Napocor

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A NUMBER of US-based energy firms have sent feelers to the National Power Corp.'s privatization adviser, Credit Suisse First Boston, for possible investments once the state firm has auctioned off its assets.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said early this week that CSFB told him "several" companies expressed interest in Napocor's privatization during an energy forum in the United States last week.

Perez declined to say which firms or how many were interested.

He said the forum was hosted by CSFB and NM Rothschild & Sons—the other adviser for Napocor's privatization—as a "teaser" to the privatization itself.

He said the firms were only waiting for the information memorandum on Napocor's privatization.

STI says it is on track to meeting ₱80-M income target

By Abigail L. Ho

SYSTEMS Technology Inc. said yesterday it was on track to meeting its P80-million target earnings before interest and tax by the end of its fiscal year in March.

STI president and chief executive Chito Salazar said in a news briefing that the computer education institution, with its new products and services, would even surpass its P55-million net income last fiscal year.

"Despite the crisis, we saw a 30-percent growth in student population as well as a 25-percent revenue growth year to date," Salazar told reporters.

Salazar attributed the expected increase in STI's revenues to the entry of new students, carry-over of old students from the first semester and income from its expansion efforts.

He said the dropping rate of students from the first to the second semester of the year had decreased from 15 to 18 percent last school year to only 7 percent this year.

STI has also lined up expansion programs that will make the learning institution more competitive worldwide, he added.

Salazar disclosed that STI had a goal of expanding to five more Asian countries by December 2002.

"We also want to reach Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Japan. We're almost halfway there," he said.

STI already has 110 campuses nationwide. It also has schools in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

To help finance its expansions, STI has increased its capital stock from P400 million to P1 billion.

Salazar reported that over 80 percent of STI's subscribed and paid-up capital had been fully paid for.

"Given the present economic climate, that is really an expression of the trust and confidence of the shareholders in our new management team," he said. By January next year, Salazar said STI would launch STI.net—educational and Internet centers that would reach out to smaller municipalities all over the country.

STI is also developing the STI University, which will "go live" by January 2003. It has also signed a memorandum of understanding with telecommunications leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and software giant Microsoft Corp. for its STI Online program.

Salazar added that STI was also set to launch an "e-College system" that would provide online degree programs through a partnership with the Global University Alliance, a group of 10 fully accredited international universities.

Adhesives maker firms up ₱87-M initial public offering

By Elena R. Torrijos

FEDERAL Chemicals Inc., a manufacturer of adhesives and sealants, has firmed up its initial public offering.

In a presentation to investors, Fedchem, owned by businessmen Wilfredo Co and Charles Kwa, said it would offer some 12.508 million shares to the public at P7 each on Dec. 3 to 7. On Dec. 21, these shares would be listed on the second board of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Fedchem has assigned RCBC Capital Corp. as its lead underwriter and manager.

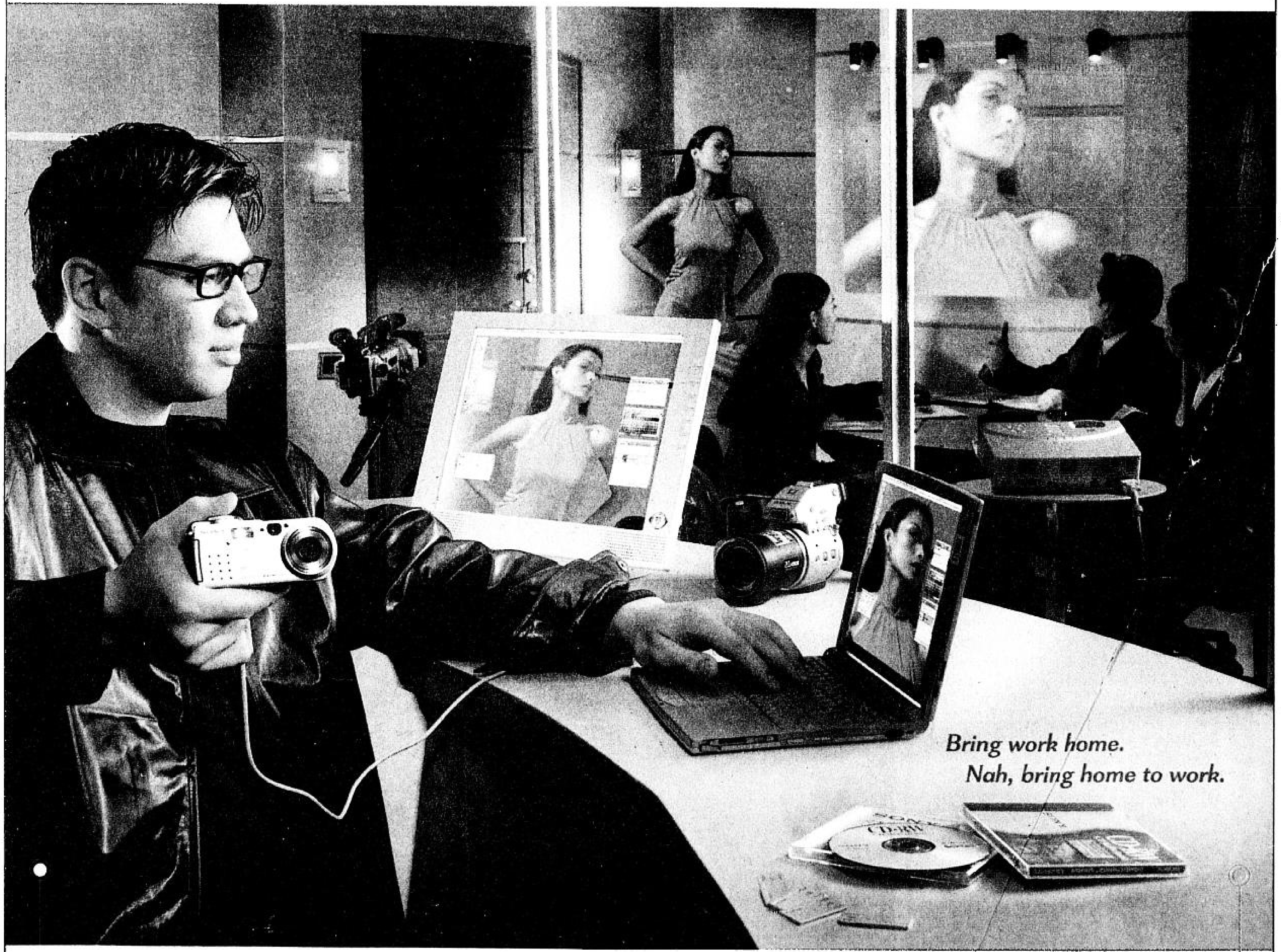
The company said it expected its IPO to raise at least P87.556 million. It said it would use 72 percent of the proceeds as additional working capital and the rest to pay trust receipts payable and invest in government securities. The trust receipt payable arose from the importation of key raw material directly from foreign suppliers, it said.

Fedchem, which began operations in 1993, manufactures adhesives, sealants and other chemicals for hardware, construction, do-it-yourself and industrial applications.

The company has an authorized capital stock of P100 million consisting of 100 million common shares with a par value of P1. At present, 25 million common shares have been issued and are outstanding.

After the IPO, the company's total outstanding shares will rise to 37.508 million and its market capitalization to P282.558 million.

Fedchem has forecast a P12-million profit this year, P27.5 million next year and P44 million by 2004. As of July this year, its revenues have amounted to P87.2 million and its assets stood at P94.6 million.



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ENGINE SYSTEM DEFECT

Nissan recalls 300,000 cars from 11 models

TOKYO—Nissan Motor Co., Japan's third largest automaker, is recalling more than 300,000 vehicles from 11 different car models because of an engine system defect, a report said.

Nissan informed Japan's Transport Ministry on Thursday that it was conducting a domestic recall of 302,584 cars built between April 1998 and December 2000 because of faulty engine sensors, Kyodo news agency reported.

Models affected in the call back include the Sunny, Avenir, Bluebird, Premera and Mazda's Familia, which Nissan manufactures, Kyodo said.

Both the company and the Transport Ministry were unavailable for comment on Friday, a national holiday in Japan.

It was unclear how many Nissan vehicles overseas would be affected, but the company's distributor in Singapore, Tan Chong & Sons Motor Co., said in a statement Friday that 10,000 Nissan Sunny cars were being recalled in the city state because of the sensor problem.

The distributor said a short circuit in the sensors might make the cars difficult to start or cause them to stall. *AP*

Russia seen cutting oil output soon

MOSCOW—Russia was on the verge Thursday of announcing an oil production cut to stabilize prices, but the size of the reduction remained a mystery as local energy giants tried to come to an agreement on the issue.

As Russian oil major chiefs prepared to meet Friday with top government officials to discuss the country's oil strategy, sources here hinted Moscow could announce a bigger output cut following the talks.

A "reasonable decision" could be made following Friday's meeting, said Simon Kukes, who chairs Russia's fourth largest oil company, TNK.

In fact, said Kukes, it is in Moscow's interest to stabilize oil prices since their erratic fluctuation prevents Russian oil companies from planning their developments efficiently.

Leonid Fedoun, deputy chair of Russia's largest oil company, LUKoil, echoed Kukes' forecast by saying he thought that "the (Russian) government will cut (oil) production enough to stabilize prices."

And Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko repeated for the third day in succession Thursday that Moscow, the world's second largest oil exporter, was "prepared to cooperate" with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—which has demanded significant output cuts from Russia—and favored "common" efforts with the oil cartel.

Russia,has so far declined to slash its output, announcing only a symbolic reduction of 30,000 barrels per day (bpd) that merely outraged Opec. *AFP*

German economy slips in 3rd quarter

BERLIN—Europe moved a step closer to recession Thursday with news that the German economy unexpectedly shrank in the third quarter, as consumers and firms reined in spending even before the full impact of the Sept. 11 attacks was felt.

The total value of goods and services produced in Germany in the three months through September slipped 0.1 percent from the previous quarter, the first decline in more than two years, the government statistics office said.

Economists expect a further contraction across Europe in the closing quarter of this year, led by Germany, which accounts for about a third of economic activity in the 12 nations using the euro. A recession is commonly defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

"Germany is of course the weakest link," said Claudia Henkel, an economist at Dresdner Bank in Frankfurt. With countries such as France still faring a little better, "Euroland may just squeak past a recession if there is only a stagnation in the third quarter," she said.

The German economy has slowed dramatically since expanding by a healthy 3 percent in 2000. Growth was just only 0.4 percent in the first quarter and flat in the second—a performance economists had expected to continue in the July-September period.

The German government, after claiming much of the credit for that expansion, has blamed the weakness in the United States for the downturn and for forcing it to abandon a central pledge to cut unemployment. *AP*

Cadbury parodies Coke 'Hilltop' ad

NEW YORK—Cadbury Schweppes Plc's 7 UP would "like to teach the world to sing," too.

In a lampoon of Coca-Cola Co.'s landmark 1970s "Hilltop" ad—the one that famously taught the world to sing about Coke—7 UP is relaunching its "Make 7 UP Yours" campaign with a new pitchman and a new angle.

Stand-up comedian Godfrey, replacing former spokesperson Orlando Jones, introduces the "Singers" ad by touting 7 UP's ability to bring people together at a mountain-top sing-along.

But, in a recurring theme for the spots, which are slated to begin airing in 2002, the ill-conceived gathering turns into a brawl between company presidents and union representatives, ranchers and animal rights activists, and East and West Coast rappers.

"I would imagine Coke won't be real happy," said John Clarke, chief advertising officer for Cadbury Schweppes' Plano, Texas-based Dr. Pepper/Seven Up Inc.

"It was our ad first," countered a spokesperson for Coca-Cola. "It speaks to the strength of our advertising—after 30 years the Coca-Cola 'Hilltop' ad still resonates with people." *Reuters*

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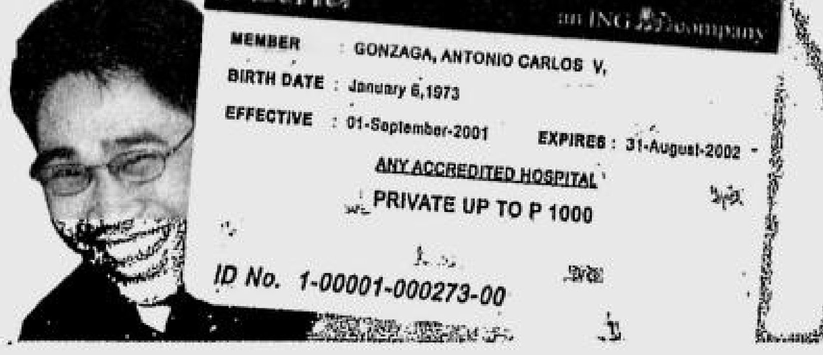

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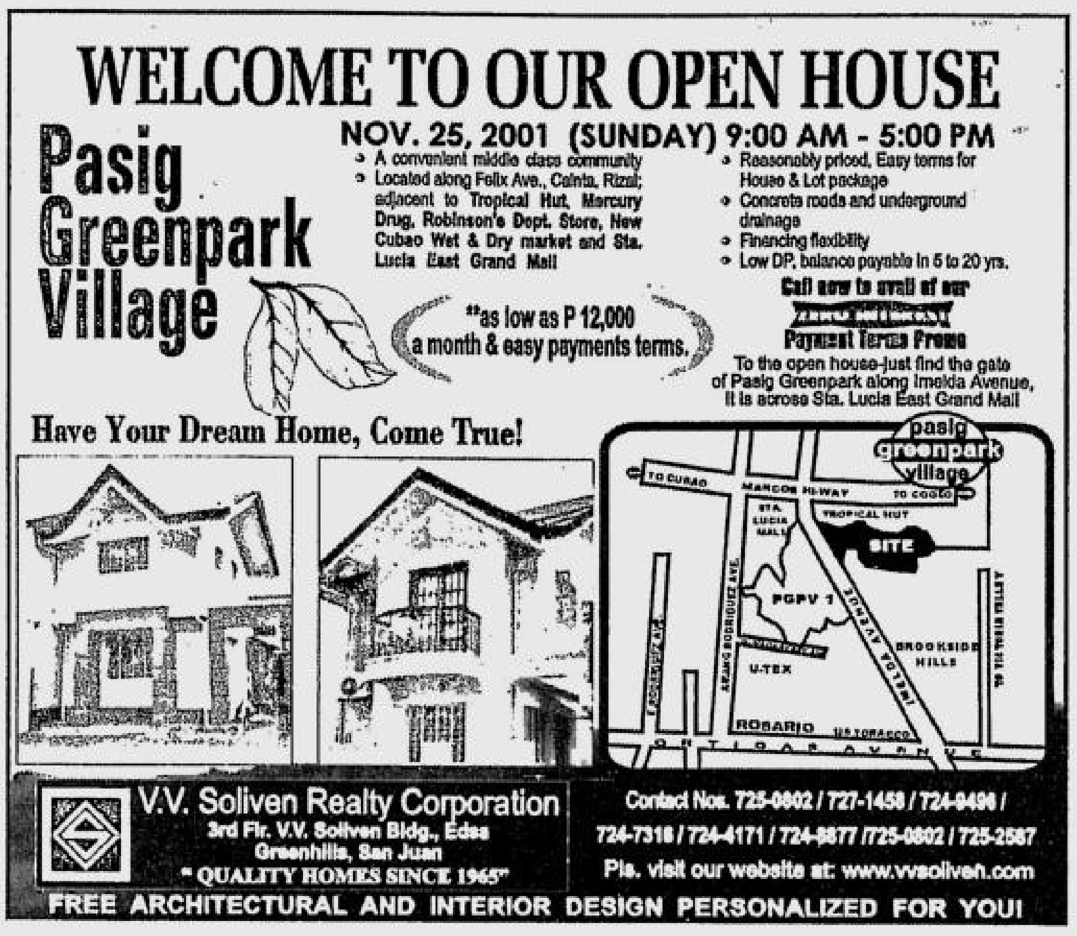

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Nr St Scho,La Salle,PGH Rent 2 Own or No D/P 2 yrs 2 pay w/o Interest 8874916 / 5758367 / 09192176735

Own A Condo 13T/Mo.
Nr Ortigas, San Juan, Mdluyong & Mla. AVAIL OF BIG DISCOUNTS NOW! Ready 4 occupancy! Call 716-7039; 716-7044

MARIKINA

2 units great location Rancho III close to transpo. school and church
Price is right. Call:
Manny Cruz 9419723
Luz Lansang 9419291

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PASIG

235 FA Rennaisance 3000 3BR 3TB 2 Prkng 634-1212

Townhse 3BR 2TB Eastside Manor w/Pkg P2.8M 643-9064 • 0916-3776876

QUEZON CITY

Burgundy Plaza Katipunan Furnishd 2BR 0917-3955738

Call 0917-8349005 P1.95-2.1M
Goodwill Homes 1 Subd.
5 Units B-new Town Houses

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D/P 9126976 ; 9120647 ; 4381161

LOYOLA HTS Semi Furn very nice with Tel SkyCable 9328547 09175258470

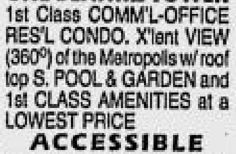
Mindanao Ave SMCity P710T-P8.8M★09185079799

MORATO & Other QC Areas Many 4Clsd LEO 727-3159

Nr Loyola Memorial
10min 2 Ateneo, St. Lucia Libis, C-5, Riverbanks inside Subd., w/ Security T-hus 2BR/Attic/2TB 2.3M 4128163-65 / 09174696831

REGALIA PARK
Cubao 2BR P4M 09185079799

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792



ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO. X'lent VIEW (360°) of the Metropolis w/ roof top S. POOL & GARDEN and 1st CLASS AMENITIES at a LOWEST PRICE
ACCESSIBLE
FRONTING NCBA, A. BLVD. nr PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS & IN THE HEART OF THE Q.C. BUSINESS CENTER
WHY BUY IF NOT FINISHED
BUY & TRANSFER NOW!
FEW UNITS LEFT
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
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RIZAL

Townhouse 4Sale Taytay B-New 2BR 2Stry 1CG Call 658-2410

SAN JUAN

Platinum 1 Annapolis
176 FA 17th Flr. 634-1212

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

★SUBIC 50+has.★
w/fruit 3s •0916-3741566

RAWLAND 164073m² @ May-antoc, Tarlac P4.3M T-7286864/09193883215 Art

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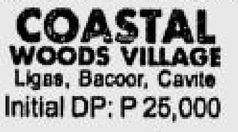
Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

Poultry / Piggery / Orchard w/ Fish Ponds / Ornamental Plants 532-3291 • 533-9225

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000



COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

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Legaspi Village, Makati City

810-8019	829-5081
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815-2144	871-8318
776-4604	810-7297

Welcome Brokers & Agents write to forterealty@skyinet.net

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

LAS PIÑAS

2BR U/D Nice T8743395 Onie

MAKATI

APT. FOR RENT 889-5592

P7T 1BR Bang. Mktl. 8153867

MANDALUYONG

ESTBN ST HWHILS 8212091

QUEZON CITY

UP BLISS 2BR TEL 9320943

SAN JUAN

Spacious good location 9th Mo. A.Luna St. 646-1603

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

FEU Fern 3br 2tb 12.7T 4544832

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1/2BR JP Rizal, Mktl 5218333

MANDALUYONG

SEMI Condo P13.5T/mo.
3BR 3TB 2-aircon
Call Marly 534-6253

STUDIO, 1BR & 2BR UNITS COMPLETE WITH PLDT, SKYCABLE PROVISION. Building has 24-hr security guard, smoke and fire alarm system & strong water supply. Your comfort and privacy is our business. Elynor/Gina Tel. 532-1016 Weekdays

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STUDIO nr-LRT Roxas Blvd. Buendia w/Kitchen Cabinet TB 24Hrs Guard Prkg Cable P5T Crestly Bldg. 37 Perla St. Pasay City 536-67-87

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Landmark Condo 2BR up 3BR w/Parking 632-7515 / 631-9087

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 2BR furnished 12th mo.good location 6461603

VARIOUS AREAS

BRENTVILLE MAMPLASAN 15 MINS FR ALABANG QUIET SAFE 2BR 2 1/2 TB MDSRM & TB AC F/S-FURN FREE USE OF BRENT FACILITIES CALL OFF HRS. 526-4478

FOR LEASE

PTamo cor. Urban Ave. Mktl. Tel. 844-4549

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

CAR SANGLA • INSTANT!
WHILE -U- WAIT
924-1254 • 925-9121 • 926-4160

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BUSINESS RENTAL

Mkt. 25m² P9.5T Tel/Prkg 8906331

Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st Class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

Office Space 80 Masikap Ext. nr Sulo Htl QC 9293366

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

2000 Ford Lincoln P1.4M 0917-8154153

MERCEDES

72 MB250C Red 2dr 130Tneg Karlo8436404/Romy8431468

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LOTS FOR SALE

RIZAL

Residential 738 sq.m. Lot 19, Block 24
Forest Hills Residential Estates
Antipolo City, Rizal; P8,000 per sq.m. (neg.)

1 hectare industrial land, Lot 3411-A-CSD-04-689-D
Brgy. San Jose, Baras, Rizal; P400 per sq.m. (neg.)

1 hectare industrial land, Lot 3411-B-CSD-04-689-D
Brgy. San Jose, Baras, Rizal; P400 per sq.m. (neg.)

46,481 sq.m. industrial land, TCT No. M-91211
Brgy. Sampalok, Tanay, Rizal; P550 per sq.m. (neg.)

PASIG CITY

198 sq.m. residential, CCT-PT 15887
No. 8 Kaimito St., Las Villas de Valle Verde
Valle Verde 2, Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City; P5M

MARIKINA CITY

Residential 2,067.8 sq.m., TCT No. N-129181
Molave, Brgy. Marikina Heights, Marikina City
Metro Manila; P12,000 per sq.m. (neg.)

For details, please contact Maripaz or Franz at
921-8214, 928-5067.

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

GUN TONG MOTORS CORP.
SURPLUS ENGINE & SPARE PARTS FOR SALE

ISTANA MB 100
HYUNDAI GRACE

LTO FREE Registration
FREE seatcover tint bullbar
TOTAL REPAIR SHOP, WARRANTY 2 MOS. We accept financing.
Call/Visit us:
Lt. 1411-A-1-B Sumulong Hi-way Mambugan, Antipolo City
Tel. 682-5591-92
0917-965-7482/0917-202-5365

MITSUBISHI

A1 Lancer 94 loaded 15 Mags Ldy Drvn P172 T Neg. 2823818

NISSAN

00Safari16Tkm 1.2M 7432018

TOYOTA

93 TCorla A1 GLI 521-6227

96Land Cruiser VXR 24V Dubai Trade Ok • 721-0317

PREVIA VAN 92model 550T 8079151 Cel:09163788715

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

Rochsta 4x4 Korea Jeep A-1 Cond P150T 948-8240

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Gas and diesel genset engnewelder & lift arm3672002

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew L3 8533103/09163443087

Bnew L3 8533103/09163443087

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

CAR VANS 413-5383

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans 4 Rent 8203894

HI ACE VANS 8252988

HONDA MB100 8908868

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BAKERY EQUIPMENT

★Serviceable CANTEEN EQUIPMENTS 4564714

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Kubota tractors 3610215

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

PUG USA-Line 7431689

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard Table 9423489

B.Table B/New w/Accessories 8014494/8020566

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9463

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

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others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T634-2886

SALE EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

WE BUY **ROLEX**
5633742 5646593 09174383744

Buying Rolex Watch
Call 6310815/09178411520

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Exp. Tailors Call 727-1657

FEMALE

CASHIERS for immediate hiring female college level
•Call 823-4573/74•
Monday-Friday 8-5pm

DENTIST Call 926-4526

ELEM. TEACHER 292-85-92

F-Escort 127705080

Mdwfe Xraytech Cnta 6822941

Wanted: Yaya/ Hse Maids Family Cook 660-4589

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280722

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. FE

Ofc Staff 9134470 Lilian

NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMPANY ENGAGED IN IMPORTATION IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:
(Salary: P8,000-P12,000)

1. **Telemarketing/ Telephone Coordinator**
   With good presentation skill/ Experience not required
2. **Office Work**
   With or without experience
3. **Marketing Executive**
   With good presentation skills

Full Time: 9AM - 6PM/
Part Time: 3PM-1/2 hrs.
Interested Parties Call:
892-3031; 892-3603; 892-3202
Address: Unit 2411 Herrera Tower
Herrera Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NUESTRA-DAMUS Pawnshop Makati City Auction Sale on December 7, 2001 all unredeemed pledges during the month of July 1-31, 2001. Nuestra Br.II Pio - 9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Nuestra Br. VI - 11:30am; Damus Pasong Tamo - 12:30pm; Nuestra Main JP - 1:30pm; Nuestra Br. IX Zapote - 3:00pm. Sons of J, Lanuza - Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DIAJADE Pawnshop Las Pinas, M.M. Will have its auction sale on December 5, 2001. All unredeemed pledges during the month of July 1-31, 2001. Diajade Main - 9:30am; Nuestra Sucat - 8:30am; Diajade Br. II - 10:30 am; Nuestra Br. III - 11:30am; Diajade Br. I - 1:00pm; Nuestra Almanza - 2:00pm. Sons of J. Lanuza - Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Attn: Netwrk Mktg. Ldrs Great News! If Ur Not Earning Over 200T/m @ Ur Prsnt Core Bus. Let's Talk Now 807-2359 Resh

WANTED (URGENT)

PRODUCT/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
experience is required
RESERVATION AND TICKETING OFFICERS
experienced in shipping corporate accounts
ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
experienced in AMADEUS back office system
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
experienced and can handle personnel and administrative matters
SALES MANAGER
experienced in soliciting accounts developing sales group
DRIVER
living in Parañaque Makati (preferably)
For appointment, please call 893-4119 (Elvis) or 0917-831-8033

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BAZAAR-MALL SPACES 4 RENT
633-9662 ★ 633-9295

Bo. Kapitolyo 125m² Office or Shop Call 634-1212

Earn 8-25T w/Travel
Opportunity • 724-6210

EARN FR HOME 8531008/09178311728

FRUIT JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSINESS FREE TRAINING! 2554643 UP 44 2569331 OR 36

GLOBAL MARKET OPPORTUNITY
We are seeking an entrepreneur to join us and represent Philippines exclusively in the provision of business services. Please send an e-mail with your contact information to worldoffice@targetlinknet.com for more details.

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT/CALL09196889156

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

WANTED
Wholesaler & Retailer
Tel. 8202777/09198669171

Work from Home w/Travel Opportunities 8937903

Rush 2 Units Vendo Mach. 32 & 24 Selections 90Th & 80Th or Best Offer 414-5355 Dr. De Guzman 0918-9090950

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Apolinaria Molina Antazo is extra judicially settled among her heirs per Doc. # 428, Page # 87, Book # XXV, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Manuel I. Sabado
(PDI-Nov.10, 17&24, 2001)

BIG MONEY

QUICK and EASY, Guaranteed!!!
Earn P 30,000 weekly possible, working few hours from home, processing mail. Opportunity
NO EXPERIENCEREQUIRED
Rush your name and address
PLUS 3 x P 3 stamps
For FREE BROCHURES
MAIL ORDER MARKETING
P.O. Box 3005-1169 Quezon City
Central Post Office, M.M. 1100

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given for the loss of Manila Polo Club Certificate No. 421 issued by Manila Polo Club, Inc. in favor of Eugenio Lopez, Jr. dated Sept. 1, 1959.
(PDI-11/24, 12/1, & 8, 2001)

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that an official receipt no. A038024 of **Tricom Dynamics, Inc.**, was lost last November 1, 2001 at Araneta Avenue, Q.C.
(PDI-Nov. 10, 17 & 24, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

Auto/Motorcycle Spare Parts

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

1. At least 3 years of experience in the field of Importation, Wholesale or Distributor.
2. Can speak Chinese or Fukenese.
3. Can operate independently.
4. Preferably female.

Rm. 511, TMBC Building Ayala Avenue,
Makati City

COMMERCIAL LOT FOR SALE

Former factory site located at
Lamao, Limay, Bataan
land area 73,868 sq.m.
With large warehouse (3,455 sq.m.)
and other support buildings.
Accessible by National Road and
ferry from the Folk Arts Theater Dock.

If interested, please contact:
MARICHU S. VALENZUELA
Tel. No. 816-3716 to 19

USAID

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used office and residential furniture/equipment, appliances, computer equipment and 25KVA O'Brien Generator sets on an **"AS IS-WHERE IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected on November 26-28, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Boulevard, (formerly Pasong Tamo Street), Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on November 29, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

For further information and lot descriptions, please call Mr. Romeo S. Arquisola and Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 831-2271, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI – Nov. 24 & 25, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Board of Directors of **RASHID HUSSAIN SECURITIES (PHILIPPINES.), INC. ("RHSP")** wishes to announce that subject to meeting all regulatory requirements, RHSP will voluntarily cease its operations effective from the close of business on December 10, 2001.

RHSP is a wholly owned subsidiary of **RHB Capital (Jersey) Limited** which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of **RHB Capital Berhad** in Malaysia. The decision to cease the operations of RHSP was taken as part of the RHB Capital Group's efforts to reorganize its business strategies in relation to its stockbroking operations in the ASEAN region.

All clients of RHSP have been formally notified of the above and are requested to contact RHSP's office as set out below immediately with regard to their existing accounts and to establish alternative trading arrangements with other stockbrokers.

RASHID HUSSAIN SECURITIES (PHILIPPINES.), INC.
33/F Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City
Telephone No. : 811-0855
Fax No. : 811-0866

RHSP has also formally appointed **AB CAPITAL SECURITIES, INC. (ABCSI)** as its successor broker whose role would be to take custody of all unclaimed shares and cash, if any, remaining in the accounts of RHSP's clients after RHSP ceases its operations. ABCSI may be contacted at the following address:

AB CAPITAL SECURITIES, INC.
3/F AsianBank Center, 328 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1200
Telephone No. : 819-3151
Fax No. : 810-3797

Date: November 24, 2001

Amalaya Group, Inc.

INVITES YOU TO OUR SPECIAL SALE of

First Class and Highly innovated bar and restaurant equipment and furnitures and fixtures on as-is-where-is basis:

Kitchen Equipment
Bar Equipment
Bar and Restaurant Supplies
Office Equipment
Restaurant Furnitures and Fixtures
Sound System

For inquiries call:
524-9245 or 0919-2061055, 0917-417-2642
Look for: Lina, Jhun or Janet

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Parañaque

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The City Government of Parañaque is inviting interested parties/accredited suppliers to participate and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

"PAMASKONG HANDOG PARA SA MAHIRAP"

2800 Bxs of Mayonnaise 220ml/24
2083 Bxs of Salad Macaroni 400g/30
1845 Bxs of Spaghetti Noodles 450g35
2800 Bxs of FruitCocktail 850g/24
1458 Bxs of Cheese 200g/48
2800 Bxs of Luncheon Meat 350g/24
2400 Bxs of Refill Coffee 100g/30
1250 Bxs of Powdered filled milk 180g/60
1548 Sacks of White Sugar (50 kls)
8000 Sacks Rice (50 kls)

All sealed bids will be received by the Committee on Awards on or before 10:00 a.m. and then publicly opened at the City Conference Room at exactly 2:00 p.m. on **December 14, 2001.**

Interested parties/accredited suppliers may secure the necessary bid documents and information from the Office of the City Mayor.

The City Government of Parañaque reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect contained therein and accept the lowest complying and reasonable bid that is most advantageous to the City Government.

(Sgd.) **JOEY P. MARQUEZ**
City Mayor

(PDI – Nov. 22, 24 & 26, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cebu

Q. Where did the name 'Cebu' come from?

A. 'Cebu' is the Hispanized form of the original name 'Sugbo.' Most etymologists say the root word derives from the verb *sugbo*, which means 'to walk in the water.' In early times, the shores of the Cebu port were shallow, so travelers coming from the sea had to wade in the water to reach dry land.

For the Record. Life on Earth began in the oceans nearly 3.5 billion years ago. The first living creatures—a variety of simple animal and plant forms—were able to survive in the ocean for several reasons. Unlike the atmosphere on land, ocean water provided a stable temperature, and the minerals that early life forms needed were present in the water. The ocean also protected living things from dangerous rays of the Sun. That wasn't true on land because at that time the protective ozone layer in the atmosphere hadn't formed yet. It wasn't until about 400 million years that living things, including the very distant ancestors of humans, finally ventured ashore.

Ooops! Contrary to popular notion, iron is not the most abundant metal on Earth although it may seem to be because of its wide use throughout history. The most abundant is aluminum, comprising about 80% of the Earth's crust.

WORD WATCH

Yero : from the Spanish *hierro*, 'iron.'

PDI – November 24, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. 743-8301 locals 1125, 1132, Fax (632) 743-1829, 743-1786;
Direct 711-9502, 711-9503
osec@doh.gov.ph

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Social Expenditure Management Loan II
Department of Health, Philippines

Supply and Delivery of EPI Supplies
IFB No. WB-SEMP-2001-006

1. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Social Expenditure Management Loan II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Supplies.

	Items	Unit	Quantity
1.	Syringes and Needles 2-3 cc or ml x gauge 23 x 1" For DPT, HBV, MV & TTV	Pieces	21,000,000 pcs.
2.	Syringes and Needles 1 cc or ml x gauge 26 x 1/2" or 3/8" needle (Tuberculin)	Pieces	2,310,000 pcs.
3.	Syringes and Needles 5 cc ml x gauge 21 x 1 1/2" For mixing syringe of MV	Pieces	105,300 pcs.
4.	Vaccine Carrier, 0.6-0.9 ll.	Set	3,000 set
5.	Safety Box, 5-7 ll. For disposal of used S/N	Set	80,000 set

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Tel. No. : (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No.: (632) 711-6712

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communication during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below before 9:00 a.m. on **January 10, 2002.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 9:00 a.m. on December 19, 2001.

   Multi-Media Conference Room
   Bldg. #18, Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who chose to attend at the address above at 9:01 a.m. on **January 10, 2002.**

By the authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Nov. 24 & Dec. 2, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COMMUNITY RURAL BANK OF ALLEN (Northern Samar), INC. (CRBAI)

1. Starting **November 23, 2001**, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Community Rural Bank of Allen (Northern Samar), Inc.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to premises of the closed bank from **November 23** to **December 5, 2001**, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After **December 5, 2001**, all depositors can file their claims personally or thru mail at the PDIC located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Community Rural Bank of Allen (Northern Samar) Inc. is on April 1, 2003. After **April 1, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Nov. 23 & 24, 2001)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

SLT-2001-12B

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 10, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	COMPUTER SOFTWARE (WINDOWS 2000, OFFICE XP, WEB MARSHALL, MAIL MARSHALL, SOPHOS ANTIVIRUS)	3PTG01-083
A2	1 UNIT	LAN RACK	3PTG01-061
A3	13 PCS	PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER	3PTG01-042
A4	1 LOT	WRENCH, BALL HAMMER, ETC.	3QUE1-275
A5	6 SETS	CATCHER AND HOLDER OF FUSE LINK	3LAG01-209
		DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 11, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	65 PCS	CONNECTOR, WEDGE TYPE ALUMINUM	3PTG01-062
B2	16 PCS	GROUNDING CLUSTER	3PTG01-055
B3	1 SET	THREE PHASE METER TEST INSTRUMENT	PSMD-N01-128
B4	1 SET	PRIMARY INJECTION TEST SET	3TSS01-027
B5	1 LOT	PACKING RING, BEARING METAL	3MAK01-389

Schedule B5 bidding shall be handled by GENCO-6 Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **November 27, 2001**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **December 04, 2001** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R. D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration
Transco South

(PDI - Nov. 24, 2001)

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DAVID G. BAUTISTA

Born in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan on December 29, 1915.

Joined the company of his Creator
on November 23, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Pacita Carpio** of Paoay, Ilocos Norte and San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City; children and their spouses **Judith** and **Lahsen**, **Edith** and **Brian**, **David Jr.** and **Shelly**; grandchildren **Leilani**, **Lucas** and **Sheralyn**, **Gabrielle**; brothers **Flaviano**, **Felipe** (†); brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence #28 Mapalad St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 25, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

"To everything there is a season, and
a time to every purpose under the heaven.
A time to be born, and a time to die,
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up
that which is planted." Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

We remember and pray for the eternal rest of the soul of
our beloved

GEORGE "JOJI" O. LOPEZ JR.

of Angeles City, Pampanga and Lakewood, New Jersey
on his First Death Anniversary
on November 24, 2001.

His wife **Maria Cecilia Rosales-Lopez**; children **Aris** and **Angeli**; parents **George** and **Leonor**; sisters **Christa** and **Marion**; nephews, nieces, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who sent condolences, flowers, offered Masses and prayers, comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

Masses for the repose of his soul will be offered in the following churches:

Holy Rosary Parish Church, Angeles City	5:30 a.m., 6:15 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m.
San Antonio Parish Church, Los Baños, Laguna	6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish Church, Lakewood, New Jersey	7:00 a.m.

SALUD MONTUYA MARTINEZ

Died in the Lord
21 November 2001

Her loving children,
Gloria, Alice, Fr. Ed, Letty, and Tony and their spouses;
her brothers and sisters and in-laws,
grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces,
and other relatives and friends
request the pious reader to join them in thanking the Lord
for the precious gift of her life.

She is being waked at the St. Paul of the Cross Parish Church,
SSS Village, Marikina.
Mass daily at nine o'clock in the evening.
Burial Mass on Sunday, 25 November 2001,
at two o'clock in the afternoon in the Church,
followed by interment at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

RET. MAJOR FELICIANO "FELY" R. JUAN

Peacefully joined his Creator on the
19th of November 2001 at the age of 57.

His remains lie in state at their family residence at #13 Tandang Sora Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on **Sunday, November 25, 2001 at Eternal Garden Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Sta. Quiteria Parish Church.**

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

ENGR. MARCELO PAYOYO FACTORA

of Sarrat, Ilocos, Norte and Baguio City

Former Highway District Engineer of Ilocos Sur, Benguet, Ifugao,
Kalinga-Apayao and Mt. Province

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 22, 2001 at the age of 90.

His loving wife **Natalia V. Factora**; loving children **Vicky** and **Manfred**, **Cecille** and **Edmund Sr.** (†), **Gabby** and **Myrna**, **Manny** and **Emma**, **Tom** and **Betty**, **Pax** and **Dedette**, **George** and **Bulac**, **Cesar** and **Chesca**, and **Ellen** and **Glenn**; grandchildren **Yvonne** and **Holger**, **Cielo**, **Edmund**, **Ronan** and **Debbie**, **Ranier** (†), **Rena** (†), **Allan** and **Erma**, **Alvin** and **Rhodelia**, **Aleli**, **Francis**, **Natalie**, **Raymond**, **Kitty**, **Karen**, **Karina**, **Christine**, **Grace**, **Michael**, **Marco**, **Gleng-gleng** and **Valerie**; great grandchildren **Marco**, **Katrina** and **Gabriel** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Baguio Memorial Chapels, Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Interment will be on Monday, November 26, 2001 at the Baguio Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Vincent Church, Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Message of Thanks

We, the Family of the late

AURELIO HENSON DIZON

August 24, 1929 - October 24, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Holy Masses and prayers, sent donations, flowers and messages of sympathy, attended the funeral rites, and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our time of bereavement.

Please continue praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

NICASIO B. SINSON

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 22, 2001
at the age of 72.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Rizal Funeral Homes Inc., Pasay City, Metro Manila.

There will be a Mass at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday, November 25, 2001.

After the Mass, interment shall follow at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

We
know
that
God
raised
the
Lord
Jesus
from
death.
He
will
raise us
to life
with
Jesus.
He
will
present
us,
along
with
you, to
God.

2 Cor. 4:14

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Children unwilling victims of air pollution

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, M.D.

ROLLY D., age 5, has been in and out of the hospital for recurrent respiratory tract infections. Jun S., 11, has the intelligence quotient (IQ) of a 7-year-old. Dina G., born 11 months ago, is fighting for her young life in the intensive care unit of a Manila hospital, hooked to a respirator to help her breathe due to severe pneumonia.

These children have one thing in common: they all live in polluted areas in Metro Manila.

Health experts are sounding the alarm that children, especially those under 6 years, are a special population at risk with the alarming problem of air pollution. Many are falling ill and dying from the effects of this worsening problem.

In Metro Manila, allergy specialists noted a significant increase in cases of asthma among children under 13 years.

"We have to seriously address the problem of air pollution, if only for our children's sake. It is a self-inflicted bioterrorism, posing a more real and imminent threat than anthrax or other forms of biological warfare," warns Dr. Benigno Agbayani Sr., a professor emeritus of the UP College of Medicine and one of the pioneers of allergy and immunology in the country.

Dr. Camilo Roa Jr., another UP professor and a past president of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians, explains that because of their physiology, children are much more likely than adults to develop smog-related lung damage. Children inhale more air than adults and they breathe faster, particularly during strenuous physical activity. In addition, they spend more time outdoors than any other segment of the population.

Respiratory illnesses

An article in the British Medical Journal quotes Dr. Miguel Celdran, a well-respected pediatrician at the Makati Medical Center, as saying: "About 90 percent of my patients have respiratory illness, and we're seeing babies as young as two months suffering from asthma. Before, this was unheard of."

A survey by the Philippine Pediatric Society, which asked doctors to describe the most common illnesses that they treat, shows respiratory illness as the most frequently encountered problem.

A University of the Philippines study found that air pollution in Metro Manila is worsening, and if not immediately addressed the city will not be suitable for human habitation within 10 years. Lead, found in the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles, is the most harmful toxin to children because it adversely affects the nervous system, reduces their IQs, and slows down motor skills. Urine samples from children living and begging on the polluted streets showed that at least 7 percent had high lead concentration. The phase-out of leaded gasoline is expected to improve this problem.

The warning signs are familiar to all those who live in cities where the air is polluted: aching backs, wheezing, coughing, headache, dizziness, lower IQ in children and a myriad of other symptoms. Millions of residents of Metro Manila breathe dirty air every day of the year.

"It's difficult to imagine. For sure, we will never drink dirty water taken from the *estero* or Manila Bay. But every day, we're feeding our lungs with dirty air filled with an alarming level of toxic pollutants," says Dr. Roa.

Experts' warning

During an international conference in Manila, medical experts reported that the number of children being killed or made sick by air pollution has reached alarming levels. Several hundred delegates, mostly toxicologists and health specialists from more than 30 Asian and Western countries, attended the three-day conference.

The conference highlighted air pollution as a major cause of respiratory diseases, accounting for up to 20 percent of all deaths of children under the age of five annually. The number of asthma cases among children was reported to have doubled over the last 20 years and was rising rapidly in underdeveloped and developing countries.

In another international conference in Manila, UP professor Elma Torres presented several studies that evaluated the hazards of air pollution on children. With the exception of Muntinlupa, schoolchildren in all areas in Metro Manila had mean blood lead levels at or above those in lead smelter towns in developed countries.

Among child vendors, it was even higher, with 33 in 100 children having lead levels more than the standard 20 micrograms per one-tenth liter of blood.

Infants exposed to pollution

A study of infants in densely populated areas in Metro Manila concluded that the 24-hour indoor air levels of respirable dusts were above the ambient air health guidelines, indicating excessive exposure of infants to this pollutant.

A study of the diseases caused by indoor pollution in Metro Manila showed the incidence of acute lower respiratory infection at 81.5 per 1,000 infants, and coughs and colds were present in 584.5 children out of 1,000. These figures were noted to have been progressively increasing over the years.

Dr. Robert Phalen, Ph.D., professor of community and environmental medicine and director of the Air Pollution Health Effects Laboratory at the University of California, Irvine, explains that one reason children are more susceptible to air pollution is that they tend to breathe through their mouths when they exercise. Mouth breathing bypasses the nose's natural filtering of air pollutants and allows large volumes of polluted air to affect the more sensitive areas of children's lungs, which are still developing.

Ozone pollution

Studies show that children exposed to summer ozone pollution have greater susceptibility to respiratory infections because chronic exposure to smog impairs their immune system. Research findings also suggest that even if children do not show symptoms while exercising in unhealthy air, they are likely to suffer a loss in lung function compared to youngsters who grow up in places where air is less polluted.

A study by Dr. Kay Kilburn, a professor of medicine at the University of Southern California, showed that children raised in the South Coast Air Basin suffered a 10-15 percent decrease in lung function compared to children who grew up where the air was less polluted.

The California Air Resources Board has concluded: "Since the lungs of children are not fully developed, early damage to the respiratory tract could increase the risk of respiratory disease in adult life."

In a field study of children during normal activities at summer camp, lung function measurements were taken before, during and after ozone levels exceeded 0.12 ppm on four days and 0.18 ppm on one day. Lung function failed to return to its preepisode level for many days after the ozone episode had passed.

An acute exposure of humans to 0.40 ppm ozone initiates biochemical changes in the lungs resulting in the production of components that contribute to inflammation and acute lung damage and can lead to long-term effects such as fibrosis.

Main target

The respiratory tract is the primary target of air pollution. Studies on animals show that ozone, one of the harmful pollutants formed in the air, damages cells in the lung's airways, causing inflammation and swelling. It also reduces the respiratory system's ability to fight infection and remove foreign particles.

Prof. Jane Hall's study on the health effects of air pollution on residents of the South Coast Air Basin estimated that school age children, who represent only 20 percent of the basin's population, experience more than 40 percent of the symptoms associated with exposure to ozone.

In March 2000, the World Health Organization reported that air pollution in Metro Manila was four times the prescribed limit. The main culprits are the hundreds of thousands of motor vehicles on the streets, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Health concerns (asthma, other lung infections, heart problems, cancers, central nervous system damage and lowered IQs, among others) increasingly affect people from all walks of life. It is a growing health hazard that has reached monstrous proportions. It is a true epidemic like no other plague we've seen before. And no one, not even one community in the metropolis, is immune from the growing threat of Metro Manila's degraded air quality.

So medical experts are urgently cautioning that for our children's sake, we can no longer afford to treat air pollution as simply an irritating but nonserious problem. Every facet of the air pollution equation is worsening and it's making our children ill.

"In fact, it's slowly killing them," warns Professor Agbayani.

Continued decline in air quality

The population of Metro Manila has rapidly grown over the past three decades and now stands at 12 million, with some 12,600 people crammed into each square kilometer. Thousands live in the shadows of power stations or industrial plants, while efforts to shut down the heavily polluting plants are delayed or put off again and again. Smog chokes our children's suffocated lungs and blankets the city, millions of motor vehicles congest our streets and knot intersections, helpless pedestrians try to cope, in vain, by clamping handkerchiefs over their mouths and noses.

Despite the government's enactment of the Clean Air Act and the Asian Development Bank's $300-million assistance for an intensive, integrated urban air pollution abatement project in Metro Manila and various traffic improvement projects, it is obvious that the megacity's air quality continues to decline.

One bright spot was Executive Order 466, signed in 1997 and implemented in full in 2000, which phased out leaded gasoline. It is considered a major accomplishment. However, effective implementation of other provisions of the Clean Air Act remains a big challenge.

Without doubt, solving the problem of air pollution is not going to be an easy task. Government will need to exert political will, while millions of vehicle owners must take it upon themselves to make sure their cars do not belch poisonous fumes. Business and industry can no longer abdicate their responsibility in ensuring that their factories do not spew out toxic gases. And ordinary citizens of Metro Manila must refuse to accept the worsening air pollution as an inevitable take-it-or-leave-it proposal of city living.

If we fail to take action, our urban environment and our collective health will continue to deteriorate. And the polluted air in our midst will figuratively lull the metropolis to sleep, like having an overdose of a general anesthetic. Our own apathy will make sure that we—and our children—will pay for it dearly.

(Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/ Philippine College of Cardiology and the current chair of its Adult Specialty Board. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.)

Aromatherapy revisited

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

I HAD the pleasant opportunity of meeting a remarkable group of women a decade ago. Upon the invitation of Dr. Sonia de Leon, esteemed professor of food science at the UP Diliman, I became a member of the Women Scientists Forum (WSF). Alas, a tight schedule and an active toddler made it impossible for me to remain an active member, though I try to keep in touch, and in fact, have interviewed and written about some of the scientists.

Thus, I was happy to receive a letter from a WSF member, Dr. Magdalena C. Cantoria, an academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology, chair of the Biological Sciences Division from 1989 to 1996 and a member of the executive council from 1989 to 1992.

I read your article on aromatherapy (April 12 , 2001). I first heard of aromatherapy as a scientific discipline when I attended the annual meetings of the German Society for Medicinal Plant Research (of which I am a member) in Hamburg a few years ago. I took the opportunity to talk with Prof. G. Buchbauer, one of the scientists who presented posters on the topic. The subject was new to me and I requested reprints of his papers which he later sent me. I cited them in my article for the Philippine Science Encyclopedia, Pharmaceutical and Chemical Sciences, 1998, which I am sending to you now. I hope you find the article useful.

By the way, I hope your university has a set of the PSE. If not, you can get the eight volumes from the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) in Bicutan. Volume 2 is on the mathematical sciences, and Dr. Norman Quimpo was former chair of that division. Congratulations on your column and I hope more young people read it.

Thank you very much for your letter, and I think our library already has a set of PSE. I highly recommend every school (at least every university) to have one. It is about time our students (and teachers) become aware of local accomplishments in science. Dr. Quimpo is a colleague and a dear friend. We are proud of his work in the NRCP, and I am proud of having been one of his students.

Below are pertinent excerpts from Dr. Cantoria's article on aromatherapy.

The use of volatile (essential) oils and fragrance compounds in medicine and pharmacy has long been recognized. Interest in these substances has been revived with the current trend toward the use of natural remedies and the tendency for self-medication. Volatile oils are produced by plants and are heterogenous mixtures of compounds. At present, more than 3,000 compounds have been identified.

The term "aromatherapy" was coined in the 1930s by the French cosmetic chemist, Rene Maurice Gattefosse, who observed the excellent antiseptic properties and skin permeability of volatile oils and defined it as "any therapy with volatile oils." Aromatherapy is a combination of "aroma" which means fragrance, sweet smell, a subtle quality, and "therapy" which implies a handling only by doctors or persons trained in the medical sciences. Volatility is the main property of volatile oils and fragrance compounds. Prof. Dr. Gerhard Buchbauer of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Vienna, Austria, proposed in 1988 a definition of aromatherapy on a scientific basis as: the therapeutic use of fragrances or of volatile substances to cure, to mitigate, or to prevent diseases, infections, and indispositions only by means of inhalation. Aromatherapy is not the delivery of medication as aerosols nor as topical or oral preparations. Aromatherapy is based on aroma and aroma alone–the quality of substances that stimulates the sense of smell.

One of the first studies dealing with aromatherapy was the investigation by Wohlfart and Hansel and their colleagues at the former Institute of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, Free University of Berlin, of the sedative properties of "hop pillows" (linen sachets filled with dried hops) used for many years in European folk medicine against difficulties in falling asleep. By means of headspace chromatography of the air above such a pillow, it was possible to detect the three main volatile hop constituents: acetone, myrcene and dimethyvinylcarbinol. This alcohol was shown to be a sedative in a series of pharmacological experiments with mice.

Other experiments have been done with rosemary oil and lavender oil, among others. Experiments with human volunteers deal with physiological and pharmacological activities of fragrances. Reactions, which are obtained by inhalation and subsequent introduction of the fragrance molecule into the blood stream by nasal and/or pulmonal resorption, are the concern of aromatherapy. A variety of experimental methods have been developed to shed more light on the problem of the body response upon inhalation of fragrance molecules and it is interesting to note that the Japanese scientists are at the forefront of this type of research. The main problem in dealing with human volunteers in aromatherapy research is the difficulty of separating the psychological influence producing the desired healing effect from the pharmacological, direct interaction of the fragrance molecules with appropriate receptors in the central nervous system. However, it has been possible to show that upon inhalation, fragrance molecules really get resorbed, are transported in the blood stream, and thus are able to exert distinct effects in human subjects.

Those who are interested in the technical details of various aromatherapy experiments can consult Dr. Cantoria's article for the PSE.

* * *

Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes a Wednesday column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net. She can be reached at Ateneo de Manila University, Mathematics Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail her at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Is the country prepared for genetically modified corn?

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

BY THIS TIME, no one can dispute that the Bt corn variety has made corn bugs packing for other greener pastures.

During a press presentation, Dr. Arnold Estrada, Monsanto Philippines product development officer, showed how YieldGard, a genetically engineered corn variety, differed from its "regular" cousins. He showed an ear of a conventional corn stalk that was hit by a corn borer, pointing to its leaves where several eggs were attached.

"Soon, these eggs will turn into larva and will begin feeding on these leaves. These tiny caterpillars can cripple a crop by tunneling into the shaft of the plant or to the corn ear," described Estrada.

A corn borer-infested crop may also attract other diseases including a fungus that can turn the kernels black and blighted.

Then Estrada showed a YieldGard ear. The kernels on the cob were in serial perfection.

"The tips of the kernels are nice and clean. No inlets for disease to get in," he said. "Of course, you can make this happen with the other variety. That is, if you spray and spray."

A look at the two images of corn crops would show the quite obvious difference: one was reeling from different stages of infestation, the other was the picture of health. Both were of the same corn hybrid but one was genetically engineered to protect itself from corn borers.

Despite the numerous questions and issues over genetically modified crops, several companies worldwide like Monsanto continue to study and come up with pest resistant and high-yielding crop varieties.

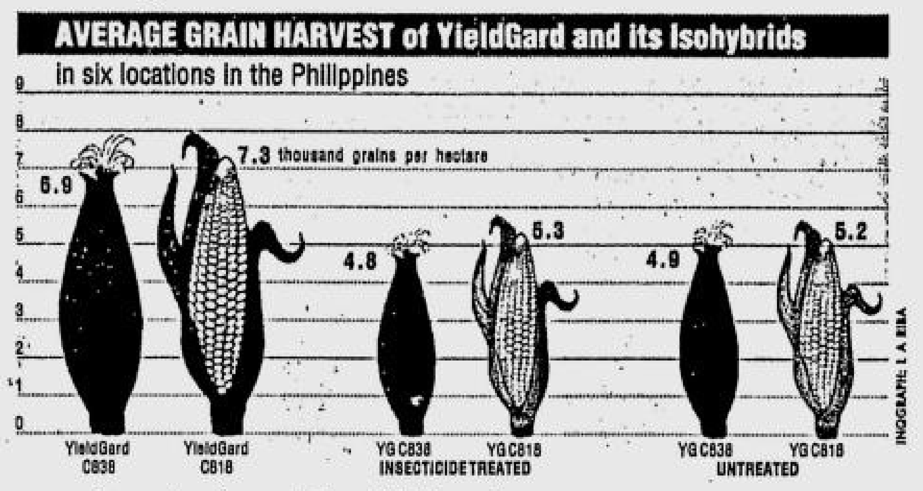
YieldGard field trial results

Recently, Monsanto Philippines announced the results of its local field trials on YieldGard. The company had set up experimental plots in six different locations: Kibawe in Bukidnon, Tigaon in Camarines Sur, Sta. Maria in Pangasinan, and Echague, Cauayan and Ilagan in Isabela from July to November this year.

"We wanted to see how our corn variety responded to different regions in the country. Specifically, we wanted to test the effectiveness of the variety against the Asiatic corn borer, one of the main pests crippling many cornfields nationwide," said Estrada.

Monsanto, a leading provider of agricultural solutions to growers worldwide, reported that with the YieldGard variety, farmers could enjoy an average of 40 percent increase in their harvest.

"That means a potential additional income of P12,000 per hectare if we base it on the average farm price of corn at P6 per kilo," estimates Estrada.



Even in areas where the level of infestation is not so high, a YieldGard variety can still bring farmers an additional 10 percent increase in harvest which translates to an income of about P3,000 per hectare, according to Estrada's estimates.

Farmers, however, won't find YieldGard yet in the market.

"There are still tests to be done and we are planning to secure another license from the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines, to conduct more field experiments," says Estrada.

Season-long protection

The YieldGard variety is the first genetically engineered corn that offers season-long protection against corn borers. To achieve protection against the insect pest, the YieldGard variety carries a gene from a common soil bacterium called *Bacillus thurengiensis*, or Bt (hence, Bt corn). The gene causes the plant to produce a protective protein in its tissues that is harmful to some insect pests.

In the United States, Canada, South Africa, Argentina and other countries where Bt corn has been grown commercially for the past four years, corn fields showed fewer downed stalks, broken stalks and dropped ears, making harvest easier and more productive, reports Estrada.

The YieldGard variety also reduces corn ear damage, which is one of the main pathways by which mold infects the grain. Molds can produce mycotoxins that are hazardous to animals and humans when ingested.

Frankenstein foods

But there are many who are opposed to genetically modified foods, calling these products "Frankenstein foods." Early this year, a farmers group uprooted several Bt corn crops in an experimental field in Isabela.

European environmental organizations and public interest groups have been actively protesting against GM foods for some time now.

Recently, a controversial study on the effects of genetically modified corn pollen on monarch butterfly caterpillars brought the issue of genetic engineering to the forefront of public consciousness. Laboratory tests conducted by Cornell University researchers early this year resulted in the death of nearly half of monarch caterpillars that ate milkweed leaves dusted with pollen from a new brand of genetically engineered corn.

Farmers reject Bt corn

THE PEASANT group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) disputed claims by Monsanto Philippines that farmers will benefit from genetically modified corn.

The KMP said only Monsanto will benefit from its technology as it will strengthen their monopoly on the corn seed market in the country and in Asia.

Rafael Mariano, KMP chair, said high yield and the corn borer pest, which Monsanto's YieldGard corn was resistant to, were not really the main concerns of the country's corn farmers.

He said thousands of metric tons of farmers' produce are rotting in warehouses in Isabela, Bicol and Mindanao due to very low farmgate prices and the flooding of cheaper imported corn in the local market.

Mariano also echoed warnings issued by scientists who pointed to the possibility that the Asiatic corn borer will eventually be resistant to the insecticide genes injected to the Bt corn.

Gerald G. Lacuarta

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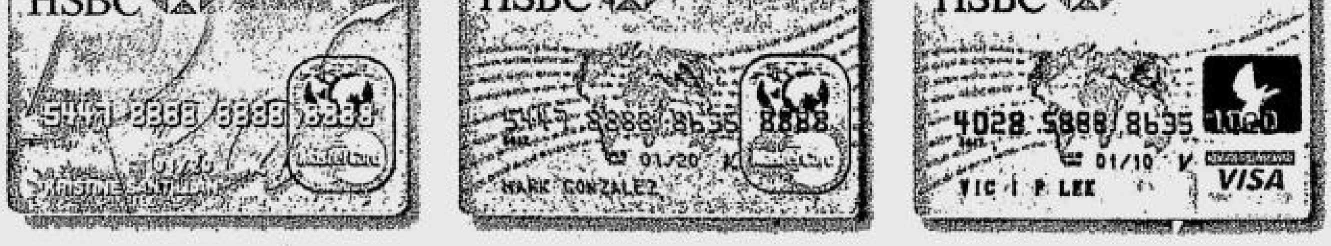

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C1

Saturday SPECIAL

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Delectably Miracled Papayas

1 cup water
1/2 cup sugar
1 medium papaya (about 1/2 kg.), half ripe (manibalang), cubed
1-1/2 tbsps. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. lemon rind
1 cinnamon stick
1 170 g. can NESTLÉ CREAM

Bring water and sugar to boil until dissolved. Add next four ingredients and cook until papaya is fork tender. Remove papaya from syrup and transfer to dessert plates. Continue boiling syrup until half the original quantity. Pour syrup over papaya, chill for about 1 hour. Serve with a dollop of cream. Serves 4

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Promising talents light up the musical-theater scene

By Rito P. Asilo

LIKE Ana Feleo, Shiela Parducho-Asuncion and Brenda Glaire Geroy, Mae Ann Valentin's passion is for singing more than acting. But they have all found that doing both in stage musicals gives them a higher kind of fulfillment.

Challenge

For Mae Ann, the challenge lies in creating a character while telling the story of that character in song, text and movement or dance, without affecting the flow of the narrative. "Musicals are fun to do," she says, "you just don't deliver lines but also tell a story in song."

But the feisty, statuesque UP voice student treats straight plays with as much vigor as the musicals that she does. Such is her versatility that she easily shifts from an Italian aristocrat in "Bakhita, The Musical" to a vivacious, diva-like lesbian in the Palanca-winning play, "Last Order sa Penguin," from the fortysomething mother of Peter in "The Diary of Anne Frank" to the colorful heroine in the opera, "Amelia al Ballo." She impresses her directors with her being a fast learner.

When she was a college freshman, she became part of the chorus of a staging of Puccini's "Le Villi." Mae enjoyed every minute of the experience even if all she had to do was look dainty as a flower. She laughed when we noted her that she must have been a very conspicuous flower at 5'7"!

Advantage

Her advantage in height has gotten her typecast in strong, mature roles that are 10 to 20 years older than her real age—she's twentysomething. But she says she doesn't mind.

"You have to make your physical attributes work to your advantage," she reasons. "In the long run, your performance is what really counts. What's important is you don't just play the character but you should *be* the character that you're playing."

She admits that performing on stage, either as an actress, or as part of Fred Ferraz's St. John the Baptist Grand Choir, gives her a different high. "You feel the adrenaline rush when you perform in front of a live audience—the reaction is instant. Either they like you or they hate you. There's just no room for errors. You can't reshoot or say sorry to your audience and do the scene again.

"The only solution is to be totally focused," she explains. "And when something goes wrong, you have to depend on your instinct as an actress, or pray that your co-actor will help you improvise to save the scene."

What Mae Ann fondly recalls is a scene in "Bakhita" where she forgot to zip her huge petticoat because she had gotten confused by the speed of scene changes and the number of roles that she had to do. In three successive scenes, she had to shift from an African to a Middle Easterner to an Italian.

"My skirt kept sliding down," she recalls, "And it was in a scene where I had lines from beginning to end! So a fellow actor had to stand beside me all the time to hold my skirt from behind!"

Energy

But booboos like this only made the experience more memorable for Mae Ann. In "Penguin," the role was physically demanding. The challenge was in how to throw her character's energy to her audience. "I always went home tired, but I loved the challenge," she recalls.

She hopes, though, that she will get to play more dramatic roles in the future. She doesn't set limitations for herself as an actress—even nudity! "My parents are very supportive of my theater work. But I don't think they are open to *that* idea," she adds, half-jokingly.

On the other hand, not even the initial wariness of Catherine Estabillo's folks to her theatrical activities could dampen the PUP Masscom student's love of the performing arts.

She has always wanted to perform and emulate Regine Velasquez's stratospheric vocal calisthenics, or Lea Salonga's pristine singing. But, at first, she was scared of acting, and was content to join the production staff of Soxy Topacio's "Jesus Christ Superstar" (Noel Cabangon's, not Basti Artadi's). But watching the actors rehearse on a regular basis, she started to see herself onstage more and more.

Upon reading that there was going to be an audition for an original English musical about an African saint ("Bakhita"), she gathered enough courage, showed up and passed it with flying colors. In fact, she ended up playing the role of the young saint!

Child laborer

"Catcat" was then invited to join the cast of the popular CBCP-sponsored play, "Nasaan si Hesus?," where she portrays characters she thought she could never give justice to—a pregnant teenager torn between keeping her baby and

PROMISING/p.C2

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Promising talents light up the musical-theater scene

(From page C1)

aborting it; a gossip-addicted church elder; a child laborer; a possessive mistress; a nosy reporter—etc.!

For someone who thought she knew nothing about acting, this list is quite impressive. But Catcat admits that learning these roles was not easy. She remembers saying a line more than 10 times before she got the right tone, level of anger, and vulnerability for her character.

She says, "I was amazed at how many ways one can say a line and give it different meanings with different motivations! It's up to you as an actor to decide which of these lines work best for you and for the whole scene. You learn about context and subtext.

"*Ang hirap maghanap ng* motivation if you have a lot of inhibitions. You have to free yourself. If you resist your director's guidance, the performance will look *pilit*," she explains.

These days, Catcat is no longer scared of acting. She looks forward to doing more and more complex roles—comedy, drama or what-have-you. "My director has taught me to put meaning into the songs that I sing. *Ngayon*, I don't just belt, I feel the song," she tells us proudly.

Solo number

She now dreams of doing "loud" characters, not unlike the church *manang* that she plays in "Nasaan si Hesus?" A co-actor in the play even feels that he not only sees a new intensity in Catcat's characterization, but says this is even more evident when she slaps him to smithereens in a scene, before Catcat wows the crowd with a challenging solo number!

Proof to this renewed confidence is the fact that among Catcat's dream roles these days is that of the title role of Lloyd Weber's "Evita." Or perhaps any of Bette Midler's or Glenn Close's feisty screen characters.

But before Lloyd Weber knocks on her door, Catcat is honing her acting chops in plays that she can sink her artistic teeth into, like the currently running Guerrero play, "The Eye of the Needle," where she plays the lead character, Carmen. ***(To be concluded)***

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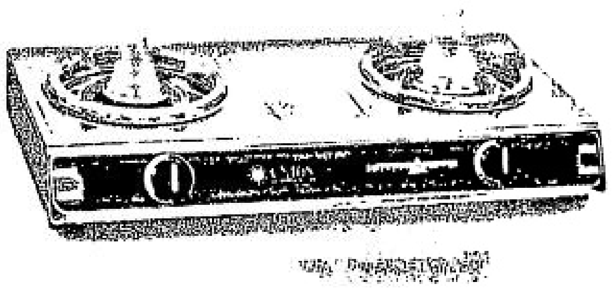

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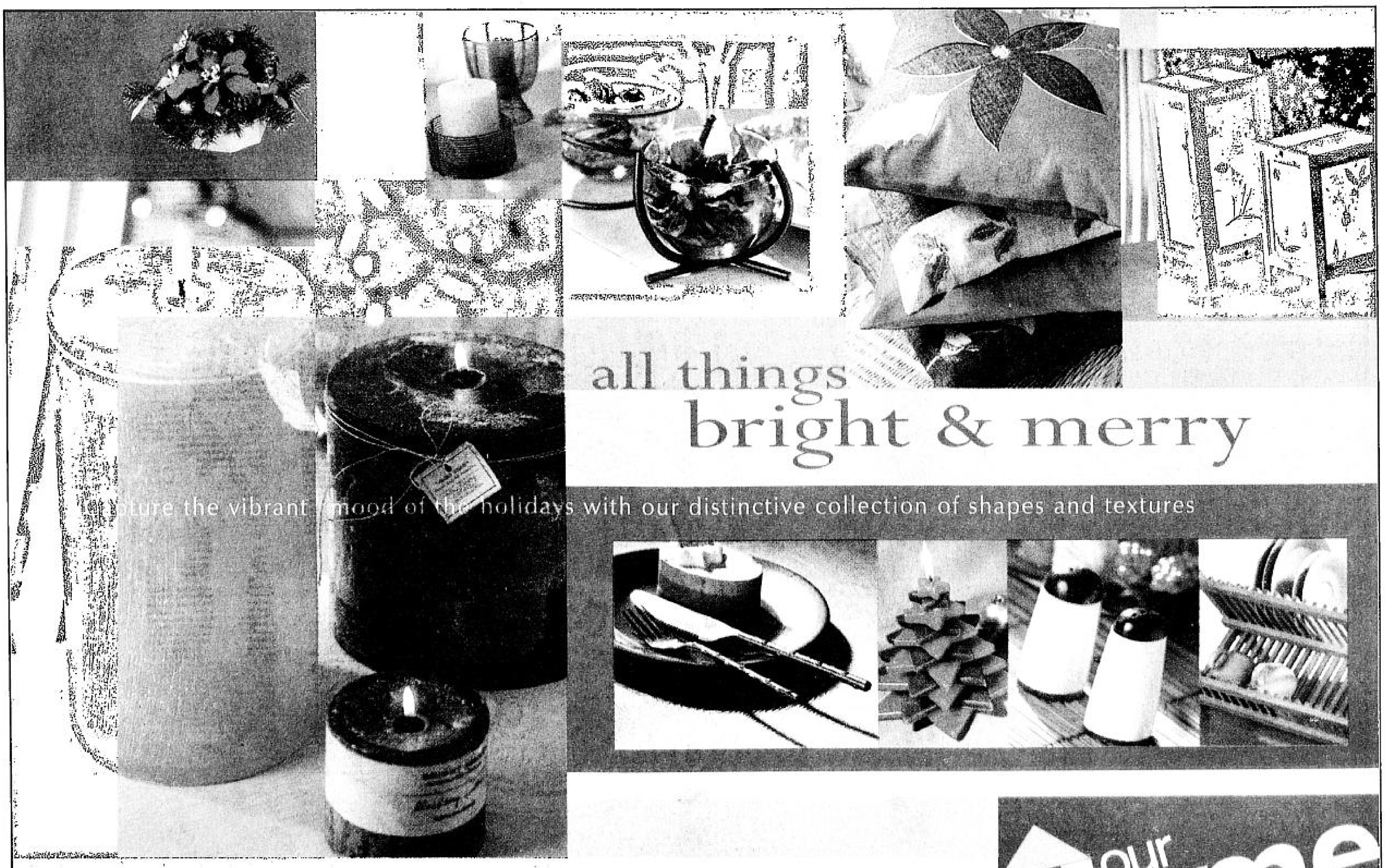
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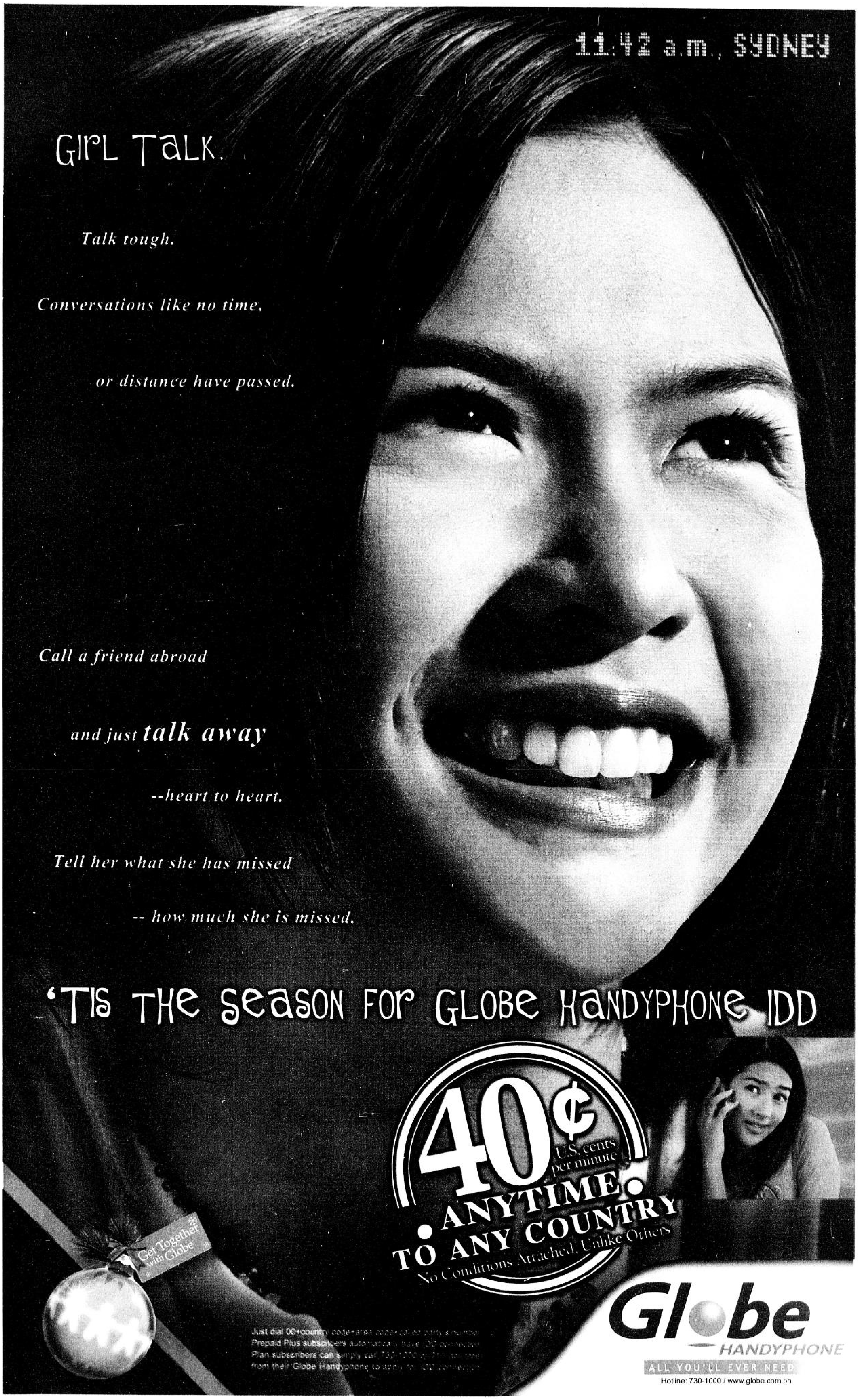

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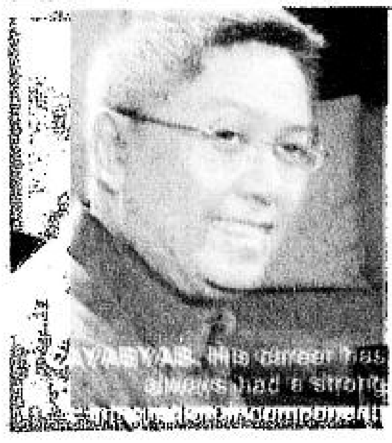
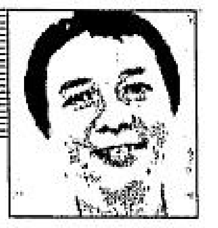
Ryan Cayabyab to be feted as Onassis Awards laureate in Athens



CAYABYAB. His career has always had a strong international component

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

TOMORROW evening, Ryan and Emmy Cayabyab will be flying to Athens, Greece for a very special awards ceremony on Nov. 27 that should make Filipinos feel mighty proud. The First Onassis International Competition for original music composition for dance and for original choreography has chosen Ryan's "Misa 2000" as Second Prize winner in the music composition division.

He will be sharing the prize with Christopher Lyndon-Gee of the United Kingdom, who won for his composition, "Chamber Symphony No. 1—Il Poeta Muore (The Poet Dies)."

Other prizes

At the awarding ceremonies in Athens, the prizes for the Second Onassis International Competition for an original theatrical play will also be presented.

As one of the Onassis awards laureates this year, Ryan will be feted and honored in a very special way, as befits an acknowledged outstanding artist on the international scene.

The Philippines will also be in for its share of plaudits. The Onassis award is not just a victory for Ryan, but is also regarded as "a triumph of the Filipino artist as music composer in the international arena."

In keeping with the artistic focus of the awards, the Onassis Foundation is involving its laureates this year in more than just the awards ceremony and official dinner.

It has arranged for them to experience Greek history and culture with visits to the Benaki Museum, the Byzantine Museum, the Museum of Cycladic Art and a tour of fabled Delphi.

It is further hoped that Ryan's interaction in Athens with outstanding artists from different parts of the world could lead to their collaborating on international artistic projects that would be enriched by the infusion of inputs from their respective cultures.

Ryan's international award is most timely, coming as it does at a low period in the country's fortunes. As a colleague in the arts puts it, "We need triumphs on the world scene like this to boost our spirits, and to remind us that, despite our so-called damaged culture, the Filipino *can* overcome, achieve and persevere!"

Ryan's career has always had a strong international component. When he was still barely out of his teens, he went on a performance tour of Japan with the acclaimed singing group, the Ambivalent Crowd. He has been the musical director of shows that have gone on European tours, and has worked with a number of international artists on other projects.

In addition, some of the movies he has scored have done well in international film festivals, and Ryan himself has participated in a number of those filmfests.

A number of the singing groups he's developed, like Smokey Mountain, have gone on performance tours abroad and have had records released there.

So, Ryan is thoroughly conversant with the international artistic scene. His Onassis award is his crowning achievement in that regard—for now. Who knows where his Athens experience will lead, and what the future may bring?

'Young Ambassadors for Filipino Artists'

On Thursday, Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Antonio Molina Hall of Equitable PCI Bank on Makati ave., the MCO Foundation is launching its Young Artists Exchange Program.

The Specific activity on Thursday is "Young Ambassadors fro Filipino Artists," featuring performances by five outstanding musicians—Kay Balajadia (soprano), Ray Sison (flutist), Rudolf Golez (pianist), Joanna Joan Notarte (pianist) and Ryan Vincent Lamaroza (pianist).

In addition, young painters from Baguio will exhibit their works from Nov. 29 until Dec. 7. Call 818-1403.

New Mikey Arroyo starrer

Mikey Macapagal Arroyo is co-starring with LJ Moreno in a new film, "Di Kita Ma-Reach," that hopes to make it to the 2001 Metro filmfest late next month. The action-comedy vehicle is the initial presentation of Ecorp Movie Ventures.

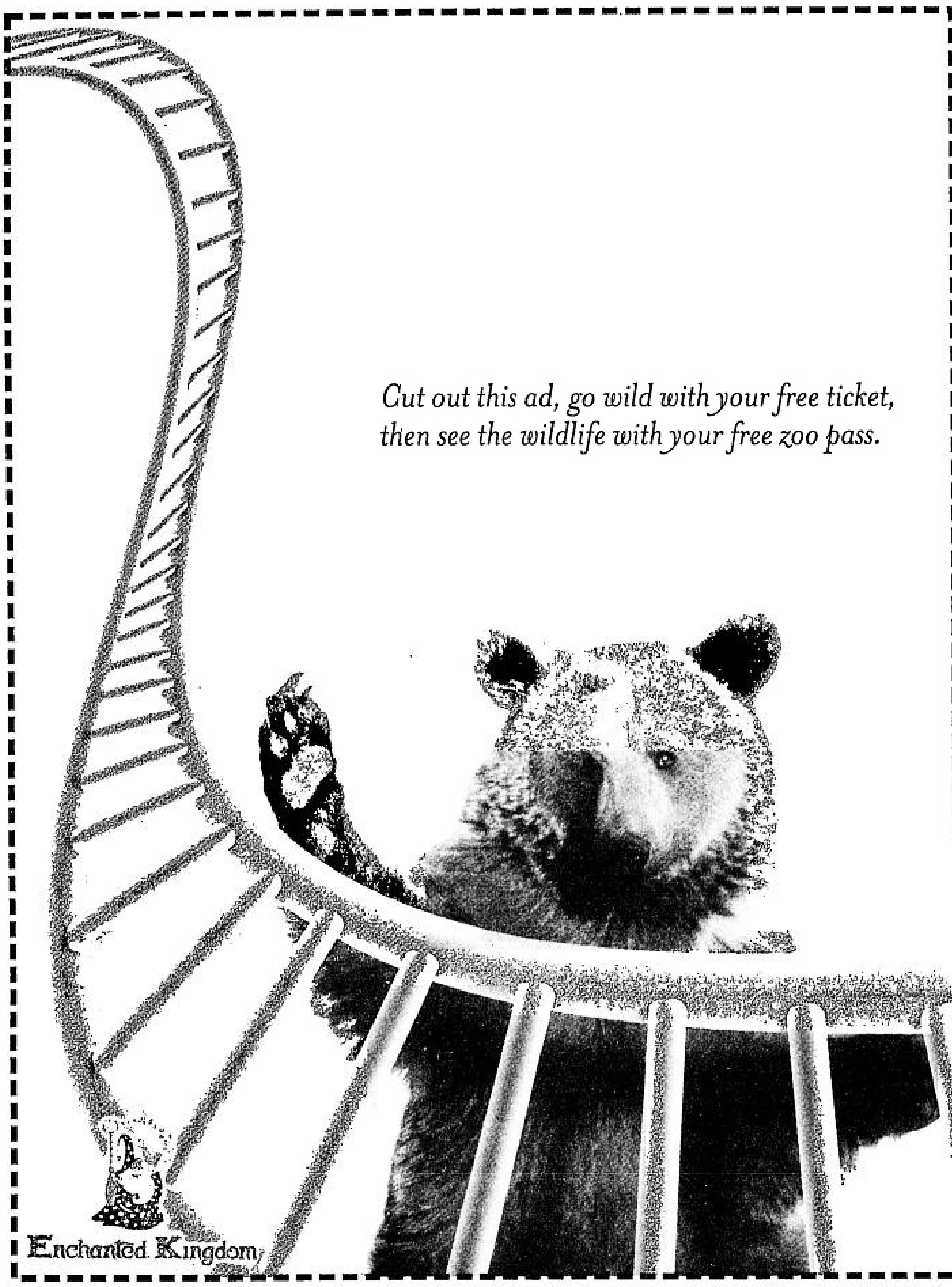
Mikey has also finished shooting "Walang Iba Kundi Ikaw" with Geneva Cruz, which has an early 2002 playdate. And he will next co-star with Ace Vergel in an action-drama production.

'Uyayi ng Ulan'

Dulaang Talyer's new musical, "Uyayi ng Ulan," goes its second-weekend run on Nov. 24 and 25, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., at Abelardo Hall, UP Diliman. The shadow play stars Ruth Alferez as Ming-Aw, Rudolf Baldonado as Dok Dugtong, and Joann Co as Inaheng Manok. Joey Ting directs. Call 415-6786.

Fashion Awards on E!

On Sunday, Nov. 25 at 8 p.m., E! Philippines telecasts the first Roehr-Mega Fashion Awards. Mega Magazine polled people all over the country for their favorites in 15 categories. For example, the nominees for most fashionable show biz personality are (male) Richard Gomez, Aga Muhlach, Edu Manzano, Diether Ocampo and Paolo Bediones; (female) Regine Velasquez, Giselle Toengi, Donita Rose, Pops Fernandez and Agot Isidro.



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IT'S another bustling month for Joey@.92.3 FM this November, with some pre-Christmas treats for everyone.

Film lovers

Last Nov. 12 saw Joey treat film lovers to the premiere of United International Pictures' "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" headlined by Academy Award winner Nicholas Cage and Penelope Cruz. Prior to the screening, Joey and Ralph Lauren Romance, Pantene, Cali, Nido, Touch Mobile, Time Depot and The Body Shop treated guests to cocktails and other fun activities like hand massages and fragrance sampling.

Joey's movie treat continued on Nov. 17 with its big-screen premiere of the must-see movie of the year, Warner Bros.' "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone," at the Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV at 7:30 p.m. The event was highlighted by Joey's own wizardry—a Hogwarts-like cinema, a magician to entertain guests, cocktails, plus enchanting games and prizes.

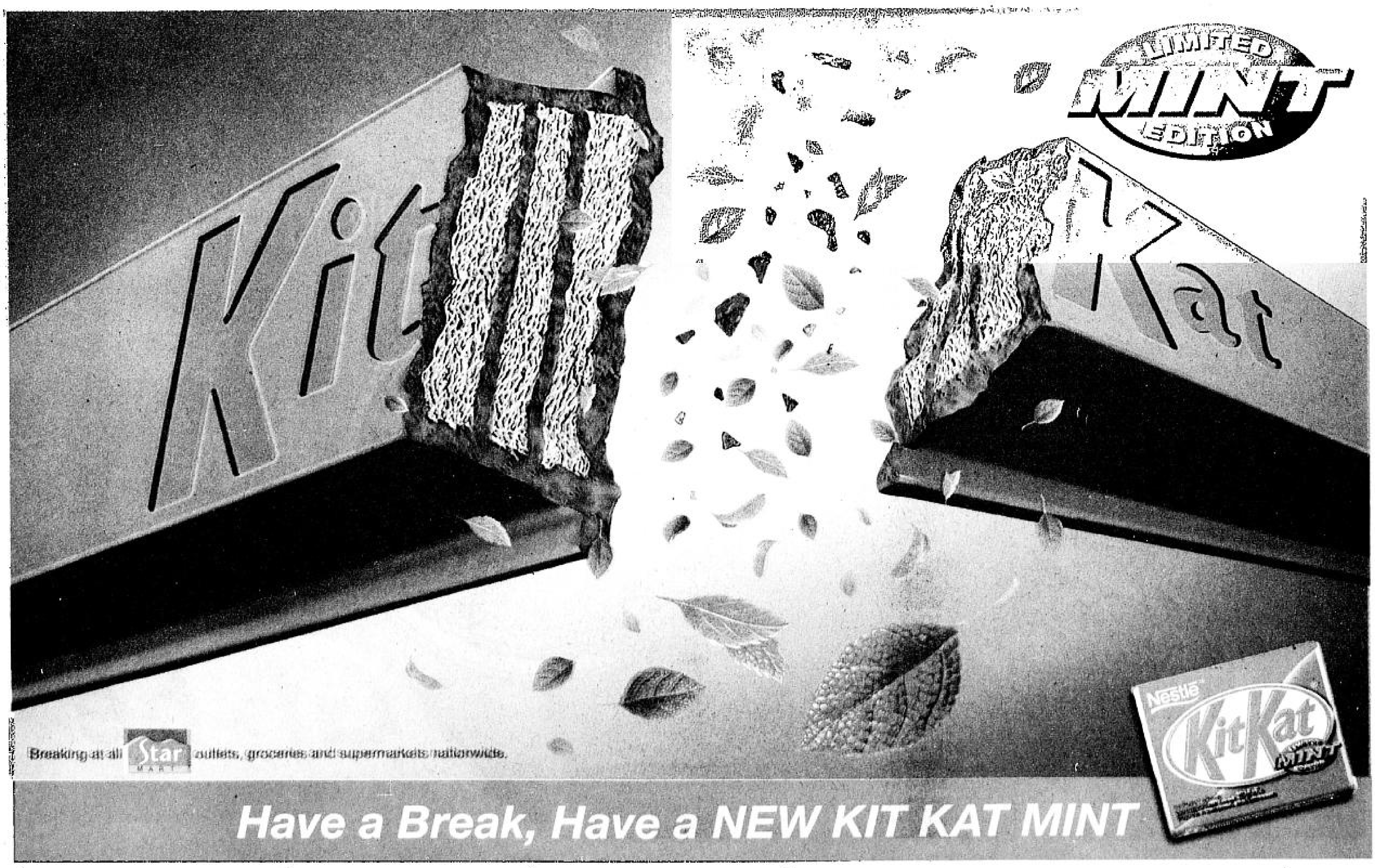
After that dash of love and magic, Joey premieres the action and suspense-filled "The Score" starring the legendary Marlon Brando, Academy Award winner Robert De Niro and Ed Norton on Nov. 26 (Monday) at the Glorietta IV-Cinema 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Finally, the month wouldn't be complete without the great rhythms that Joey is known for. This Nov. 27, the colorful era of the '60s again takes centerstage with a second helping of the event at the same venue. Prepare to groove the night away with cult favorite Spirit of '67.

Acoustic duo

Joey then brings the rhythms to Haagen Dazs Cafes with "Steam and Chill." Watch out for the acoustic duo of Nobel Queano and Rodel Vidal and percussionist Louie Boogie as they deliver soothing harmonies at Haagen Dazs Glorietta (Nov. 16 and 30) and Shangri-La Mall (Nov. 23).

And on Nov. 21 and 28 and Dec. 4 and 11, "Joey's Night Rhythms" invades the newly renovated Streetlife in Glorietta. Make it a date with Calvin Millado, Bituin Escalante and Acoustic Jive.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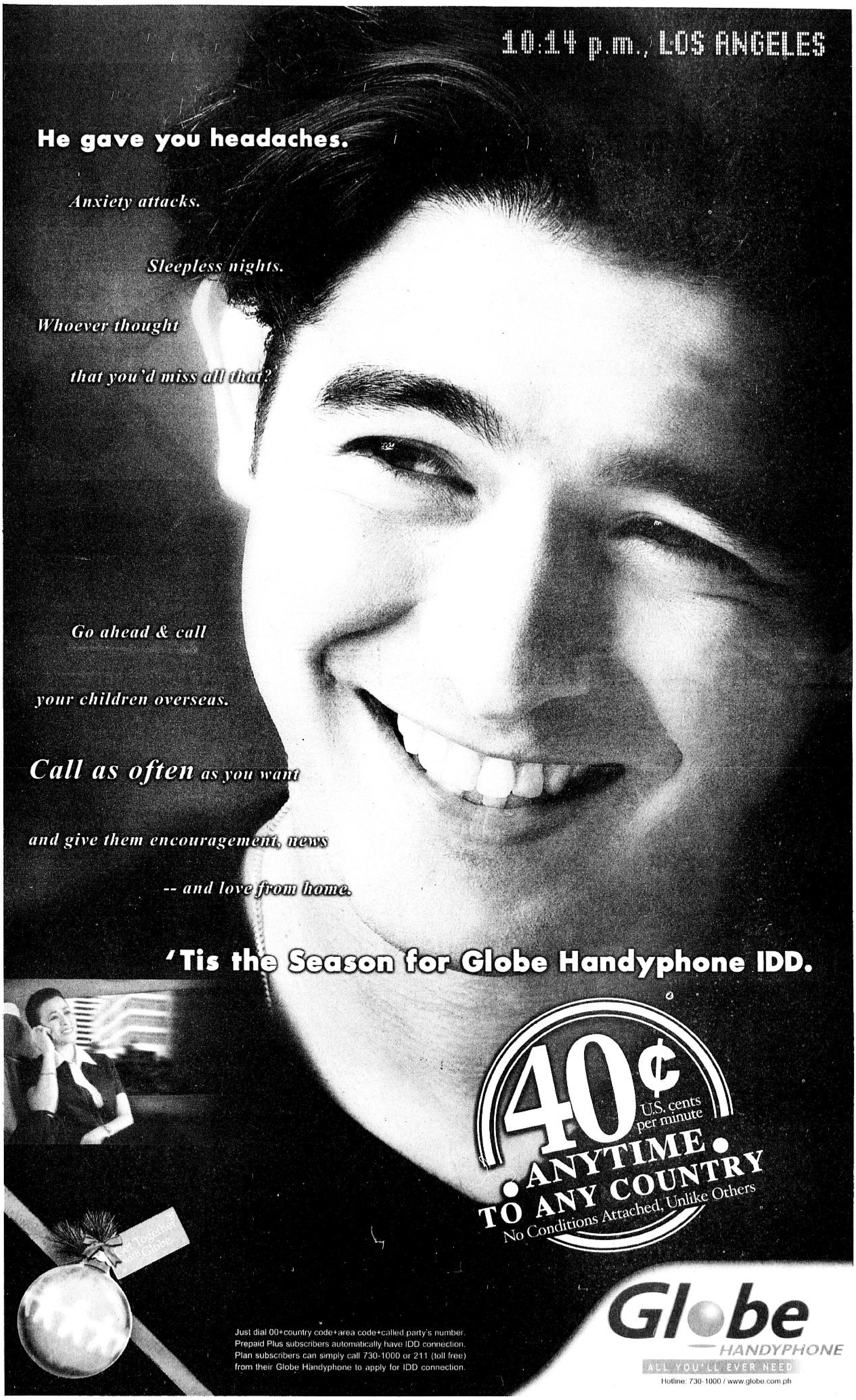

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Channel 7's 'Sa Dako Pa Roon' delves into the paranormal

By Jocelyn Valle

"SA DAKO PA ROON." Unexplained phenomena.

FEATURE stories on the supernatural never fail to capture the imagination of Filipino televiewers, that's why news and public affairs programs periodically come up with ghostly reports. Then there are the horror-drama series, Channel 2's "Oka Tokat" and Channel 13's "Kagat ng Dilim."

Earlier program

Channel 7 has also come up with its own creepy show, "Sa Dako Pa Roon," which airs Thursday nights. But unlike the network's earlier program, "Regal Shocker," and another scary '80s TV show, "Pinoy Thriller," GMA 7's AVP for programming Lilybeth Rasonable points out that "Sa Dako Pa Roon's" aim is not to frighten viewers.

"It's not a horror show," she explains. "It's a paranormal-suspense-drama series." Director Lore Reyes is at the helm of the project.

Assunta de Rossi leads the cast as Mira, a researcher who works for paranormal novelist Lupita (played by Melanie Marquez). Mira's love interest is Yuri (KC Montero), a computer wizard and a Spirit Questor. Together they probe into unexplained phenomena that people around them experience.

Explanations

For instance, the pilot episode, which was shown on Oct. 4, was about a child stigmatist. "There were explanations within the narrative about why there are stigmatists. At the same time, there is an emphasis on the human experience," offers "Sa Dako Pa Roon's" creative consultant and head writer, Ruel Bayani, adding that future topics include near-death experiences, poltergeists, astral projection and entity rape.

To make tackling each mysterious subject authentic and credible, leading paranormal expert Jaime Licauco is in the series, playing himself as Mira's mentor. Bayani makes it clear, though, that not everything on "Sa Dako Pa Roon" is lifted from Licauco's collated records of paranormal case studies. The cast of characters is fictional. "We don't want to exploit those who've had actual experiences," he states.

What he and his pool of writers do, Bayani explains, is present a certain supernatural theme to Licauco, who makes suggestions and recommendations to them, and then they do their research.

The creative team likewise makes it a point to localize the treatment of the subject matter. "It should appeal to a wider audience," stresses Bayani, citing his inspirations as "The Sixth Sense" and "The X-Files." "*Pero mas masa ang* version *namin*."

Same audience

Although "Sa Dako Pa Roon" attracts the same audience as "Oka Tokat," which is aired every Tuesday night on a rival network, Rasonable feels Channel 7's paranormal-suspense-drama series is a good match-up for the reigning toprater on the Thursday-night schedule, Channel 2's drama anthology, "Maala-ala Mo Kaya."

Question is: do Filipinos still watch late-night TV? Lately, networks have been pushing the primetime block to the max. Early-evening newscasts start at 6 p.m. and then come the game shows, telenovelas and the sitcoms or dramas.

This leaves the late-evening newscasts to sometimes end close to midnight. Followers of substantial public affairs programs, therefore, have to stay up till 1 a.m.! Or they don't watch at all.

Based on research, though, Rasonable discloses that Filipinos still watch TV till late at night. "The television is still a big part of the Filipinos' lives," she notes.

AM/FM

Pop music, then and now

By Rito P. Asilo

RJ 100 FM's choice of music is a tasty combination of pop songs from the '70s to the present. When we tuned in from 7 to 9 a.m. early this week, we caught some very catchy tunes but we always had problems with signal.

You can just imagine how frustrating it was for us to keep pointing our walkman in different directions just to get a clear audio signal. Sometimes it seemed like what we were listening to were just minus-ones with background vocals of songs they were featuring, but when a commercial came up, it sounded clear.

Perky

The lady DJ, who starts her three-hour weekday shifts from 6 a.m., was a perky, affable presence on the air. She would announce interesting tidbits of national and international news with an involvement that took out the impartial tone in news stories. She sounded as if she herself was interested to read them.

We heard 'N Sync's groovesome hit, "Pop," but the image of the ash-white Michael Jackson dancing to its last part in that bizarre MTV video kept popping (no pun intended) inside our head. And we were scared!

It was a good thing that not everything from the '80s conjured horrific images of big-haired pop music icons with even bigger egos. Mr. Mister's beautiful No.1 single, "Broken Wings," came up next. Remember the group's other big hit, "Kyrie?" Hearing these songs made us think that we were on top of a mountain singing gut-wrenching songs with zen-like melodies ("Take these broken wings, and learn to fly again, learn to live so free…") about living and loving.

It was this variety in its pop music programming that caught us. Even Celine Dion's remake of "River Deep Mountain High" blended well with other ditties like Kalapana's "Night Bird" (and made you feel like you were floating on a peaceful river in the tropics) and Christina Aguilera's career-defining "Genie in a Bottle."

We are not sure if today's teeners are familiar with John Lennon's son Julian's sound but when RJ 100 played his late '80s hit, "Too Late for Goodbyes," he sounded eerily like his famous father, albeit more nasal like Yoko Ono.

We also wonder why the talented Joy Enriquez, whose "Tell Me How You Feel" was also played here, isn't as popular as she is. She lags behind the Britney-Christina league. Her status remains in the up-and comers' group that includes Mandy Moore and Jessica Simpson. But listen to her soulful rendition of "How Can I Not Love You," from the soundtrack of the bittersweet Chow Yun Fat-Jodie Foster movie, "Anna and the King," and you'll see what we mean.

Rap version

And of course, it's just a few days before December so they even played an R&B version of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." It made us wonder though, with the trend in music that we have these days, would a rap version of "Joy to the World," or an electronica-inspired arrangement of "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit," be far behind? OK, maybe not "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit," maybe "Pasko Na, Sinta Ko"?

It was funny, though, that after playing the Bee-Gees' '70s disco thumper, "Jive Talking," the DJ gleefully announced the station's catchphrase, "We have the latest! And the greatest!" So, what's old music for them—Mozart? Beethoven?

New album

The sunshiny lady DJ later announced that Pat Benatar will come out any day now with her new album since 1997's "Inamorata," and a Christmas single, "Christmas in America," inspired by the tragic New York bombings. Benatar, who grew up in New York and had a string of hits in the '70s and '80s, said she vividly remembered watching people build the World Trade Center, and now, although she no longer lives in New York, all one could see is the rubble from the September tragedy.

She announced that Benatar will soon appear in an episode of Jenna Elfman and Thomas Gibson's "Dharma and Greg," the only singer after the legendary Bob Dylan to do so. Incidentally, Dylan has come out with his latest album, "Love and Life."

Other than music news, the morning show had updates on the Nida Blanca case, which looks like it is turning into a sordid tale of deceit and finger-pointing. How sad! In life and death, Dorothy Jones lived a truly colorful existence.

The show ended with a quotation from Helen Keller: "Keep your face to the sunshine so you can't see the shadow!"

Ai Ai performs at the Big Dome Dec. 1

MONTAGE

LAUREL. His concert is a preview of some of the songs in his album.

AFTER three sell-out concerts at the Folk Arts Theater, comedienne Ai Ai delas Alas brings her act to a much bigger venue—the Araneta Coliseum, which very few artists have succeeded in filling up. Her show, "Out of This World na Me, Araneta na Kasi" is scheduled to blast off on Dec. 1 at 8 p.m.

Ai Ai's guests include Pops Fernandez, The Hunks, Patricia Javier, Jaya, Manoeuvres, Monserrat Male Singers, Side A, and the Whiplash Dancers. Beth Martin is the musical director with Floy Quintos as writer and director. Call 911-5555 or 435-1120.

Freestyle in concert

Freestyle, acknowledged as one of the country's leading bands, mounts a special concert with the 80-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, in Mossimo's "Symphony and F" today at 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Then the band goes on a campus tour with "Natural High" to be staged in four different schools—at the UP Diliman Commonwealth grounds on Nov. 27, San Beda Football Field on Nov. 28, the Power Plant Garden in Rockwell Makati on Nov. 30 and the School of the Holy Spirit Quezon City grounds on Dec. 1. Call 891-5610.

Martin Live in Cavite

Martin Nievera performs today at 8 p.m. at the Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park. This is his first concert in Cavite.

Tickets are at popular prices (P350.00). They are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets, Island Cove Resort, Emperor Plaza Mall, Rosario-Cepza and all Dunkin Donut outlets in Cavite.

Jamie Rivera's 'Seasons'

After scoring several hits with her inspirational songs, Jaime Rivera gets an opportunity to produce her own inspirational album, "Seasons," which will be launched on "ASAP" tomorrow. The album contains songs that commemorate memorable events like New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, Graduation Day, Father's Day, etc.

Two of her favorites are "Christmas Will Always Be Christmas," the lyrics for which she wrote, with Juan Miguel Salvador providing the melody and "You Will Call Her Mother" featuring Jamie with Freddie Santos and her daughter Reine in a simulated conversation with God.

On Nov. 28, she will perform in a fundraiser, "Divas of Miss Saigon," at the Manila Hotel and at the town fiesta of Burnen, Leyte with Carlo Orosa on Dec. 7.

Franco Laurel at Music Museum

Franco Laurel's concert goes on its last night at the Music Museum tonight with guests Agot Isidro, The Company, Ayen Laurel and comedian John Lapus.

The concert is a preview of Franco's album, which has an all-original collection of the compositions of Moy Ortiz, Danny Tan, Trina Belamide, and Dodjie Simon. A special feature is a duet of Franco and Ayen in "With You."

'Illusione' auditions

Auditions will be held for "Illusione" tomorrow from 4 to 8 p.m. at the sixth floor parking level of the Shangri-La Mall. The auditions are open to talented individuals who can sing, dance and act and can impersonate varied characters.

"Illusione," directed by Fritz Ynfante and choreographed by Douglas Nierras, will feature the best impersonators in the country.

Interested parties should bring their own minus-ones and prepare a song and dance number and/or an excerpt from any Broadway musical.

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Murder, we wrote

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

THE MURDER of Nida Blanca—how can her soul rest in peace?—has turned into a national pastime. It's the topic of conversation not just in posh coffeeshops, office canteens and neighborhood *carinderias* but even in long-distance calls, because overseas Filipinos are just as obsessed with this soap opera unfolding daily on our TV screens. Text jokes abound and bets are even being made as speculations on this riveting whodunit have become a distraction from our many problems as a nation.

Nagging questions

As to Philip Medel's revelation that Rod Lauren Strunk, Nida's husband for 22 years, masterminded her killing and even took part in the crime, my instincts tell me Rod couldn't have done it. I cannot claim friendship or any kind of affinity with Rod, but there are nagging questions that make me wonder if this not a game of false doors and mirrors.

1.Why is it that Kay and *Nanay* Conchit, along with Ditas and several other members of the family, are still staying with Rod in that White Plains home on Nathan st.? I would think that Rod's demeanor would give him away—especially to the people who are with him everyday.

To people who don't know Rod from Adam, it's easy to misjudge him based on how he looks—Caucasian, serious mien, bulging tummy and all. It doesn't take a casting director to see that he fits the *contravida* more than the *vida* mold.

Instincts

But, I'm sure that would not be the case for those who know him well—especially those who live with him under one roof. I trust my instincts.

I also believe even the best actor cannot possibly put on an act for a long time and Rod is not even an actor. He'd have slipped up a long time ago and given people like Nida's immediate family reason to doubt his grief over the death of his beloved wife.

Also, when Rod's name surfaced as the No. 1 suspect in the bizarre theory advanced by Task Force Marsha, why didn't Nida's mother, daughter and nieces run away from him pronto? Most especially the household help.

2. I saw Philip Medel on TV as he explained why and how he did it, and there were important pieces in the puzzle that just didn't fit. He was too suave, too cool, too cocky.

Lethal injection

The question has been asked: Is there anyone who might agree to lethal injection for only a million pesos? My answer: some agree to it for less.

3.Nida Blanca was loved by all. She has a lot of friends. If her marriage was on the rocks, she'd have confided it to a few of her friends. Most certainly, she had a lot of very close friends to whom she could have unburdened herself. If she were a battered wife, if Rod had another woman, if she resented having a ne'er-do-well husband (if that what's Rod was to her, in the first place)—she'd have intimated this to some of her friends.

But, on the contrary, all of Nida's friends attest to the devotion and love that she and her husband shared. Nida was a good actress but she couldn't possibly hide the telltale signs that battery and other forms of physical abuse leave on a victim.

Silence

4.Rod was finally prevailed upon to issue a statement but, for several days, people were asking why he kept his silence. This led them to conclude that he was hiding something.

For me, Rod's decision to rein in his tongue wasn't an indication of guilt but, in fact, proof of his innocence. The guilty will make a lot of noise but the truly innocent will keep their peace and dignity, confident that the truth will eventually out.

Moreover, Rod's silence was quite consistent with the high value he places on privacy. His silence was actually an indictment of the predilection of people to feast on the misery of others. It was most unfortunate that Rod's decision to seal his lips further fuelled the already fiery furnace of public speculation, but, in situations like this, the only choice Rod really had was to just wait it out and let the wheels of justice roll inexorably.

Creditors

5.There was talk that he had a large gambling debt and his creditors were after him, that he had other women who nagged him for money, that he was a junkie and needed money for his drugs, that he had a lavish lifestyle that couldn't be supported by his monthly pension, etc.

I find these rumors hard to believe. It is, in fact, easier to believe that there's a psywar behind all this. One only needs to suggest something and it acquires a life of its own—the mob will blow it all out of proportion, contributing its own deductions and conclusions, helping create the monstrous lie that everybody is willing to believe because it tickles their imagination.

Here's how I think this all came about: People are enraged at Nida's murder, but, deep inside, they derive perverse pleasure from following the twists and turns of the case. There came a point when, because there were no developments which they could sink their gossip-hungry teeth into, extraordinary pressure was brought to bear on the authorities to produce something—anything—to satisfy the public's appetite for news.

Theories

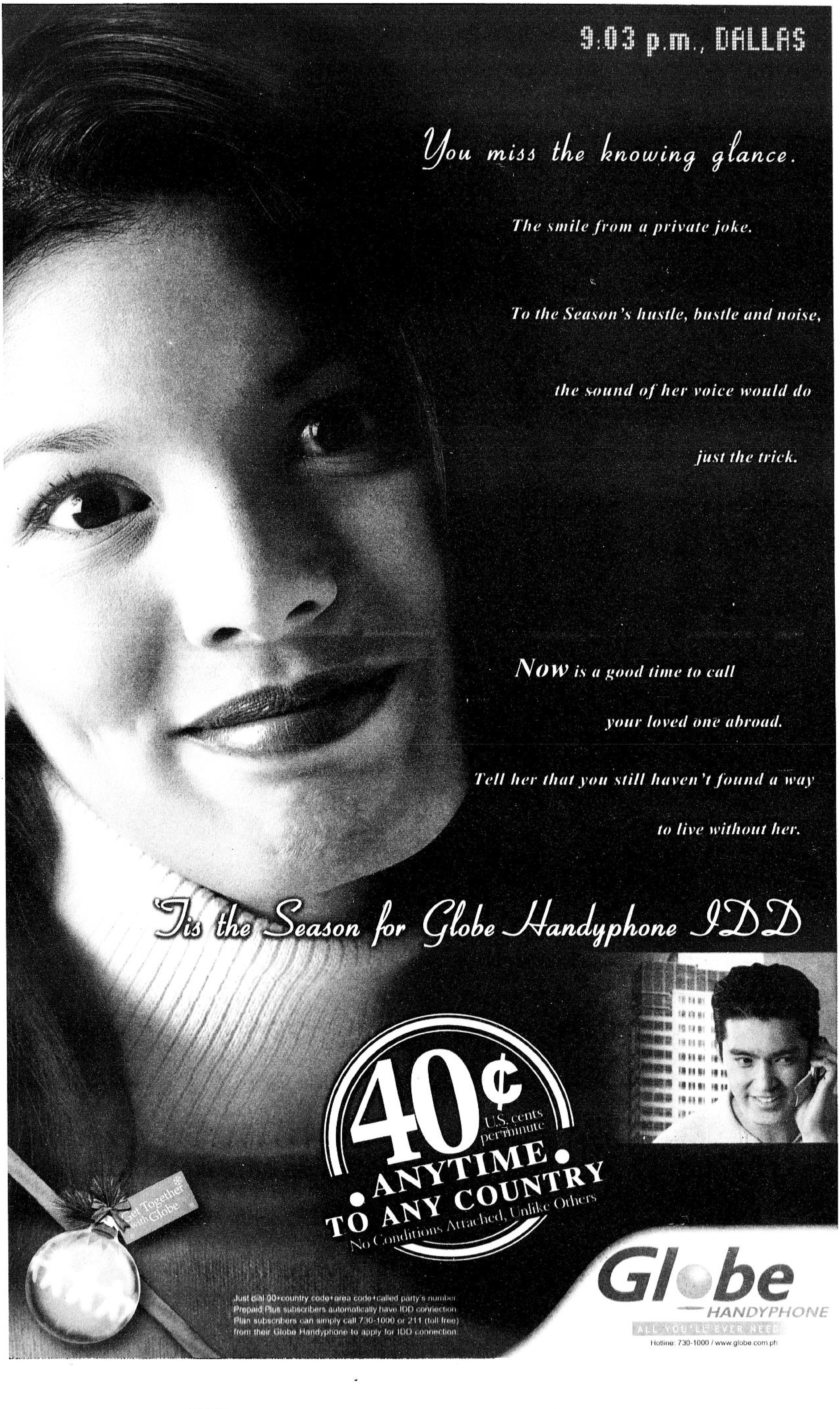
But things have gone out of control. The theories have become preposterous. One pins the blame on an actress, who allegedly did it with two lesbian friends. Another, on someone who reportedly had a huge financial debt that Nida was trying to collect. And it gets more and more ridiculous with every retelling.

It could be that Medel's story was loosely woven with evidence already established thus far. Embellishments may have been added to fill in the gaps. The authorities say that Medel is not a fall guy. They don't need to say he's not—they just have to find corroborating evidence from credible witnesses.

A plea to the authorities: No news is better than wrong news. People rail against the case's slow progress, but please don't allow them to pressure you to produce something that succeeds only in raising more questions in people's minds.

Right now, it's time to make a call for all of us to sober up. There are a lot of people who are deeply hurt. Let us not make things worse for them. As Delia Razon so succinctly put it, "We're all grieving here. Please give us space."

Let's put a stop to the witchhunt, the wild speculations, the madness. The last thing we want is to turn Nida's murder into a script we are all writing!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SWITCHING CHANNELS

GMA's 'Debate' celebrates third anniversary

By Edmund L. Sicam

DESPITE the sad state of affairs in the country, *Mareng* Winnie Monsod has not given up on the Philippines and has no plans of migrating. The feisty co-host of GMA's "Debate," which celebrates its third anniversary on Nov. 29, was her usual straight-talking self when she and Oscar Orbos faced the press at the Virgin Café.

She criticized people who look at government institutions as inefficient and corrupt but prefer to stay in the sidelines and do nothing about the situation. She added that if there are corrupt government officials, the voters have no one to blame but themselves since they were the ones who put them in power. She said she was sympathetic to the Arroyo administration but that will not stop her from asking questions that need to be asked

Did she feel bad about losing in the last elections? Winnie admitted she did initially, but preferred to focus on the lessons she learned while island-hopping on her campaign. She attributed her loss to the meager sources of information of the voters. When those sources are polluted, then they can be misled about their electoral decisions.

Winnie looked at "Debate" as one way for the public to get informed about the many sides to an issue. She said that because of envelopmental journalism, some sources of information have the tendency to brainwash the audience. They only present the side of the financiers. "Debate," invites the different sectors affected by the topic to air their side.

We asked her if she was running again in 2004. She was not inclined to run, she said, but we pointed out that she had signed on with ABS-CBN for a daily morning show. Was this her way of widening her exposure so that the people in the rural areas had more sources of information? She replied in the affirmative, so don't count out Mareng Winnie in the next elections.

MONSOD. Lessons learned.

Someone commented that he didn't watch the show because it was too noisy. People tried to outshout one another and drown out some speakers who were making a point. Winnie agreed with the observation and said the staff was trying to find a way to put more order in the discussion.

One way is to shut off the microphone of the offending person, but that presents some technical difficulties Winnie herself shuts up panelists who hurl personal invectives, which are a no-no in any serious discussion.

"Debate" is aired every Thursday at 11:30 p.m. on GMA-7

Kristine wants more freedom

Teleserye queen Kristine Hermosa is under some pressure to make Megabuilt's first movie project, "Dugong Aso" a success. Although the star of the movie is Mark Lapid, the son of Pampanga governor Lito Lapid, this is Mark's first major role and the producer is counting on Kristine's clout at the box office to pull in the moviegoers. After all, Kristine's TV soaps have all been top raters, so that should translate into positive figures at the tills.

Kristine joined our table at the presscon and we asked her what things had changed since her 18th birthday, whether her mom had loosened her leash, etc/ The situation hasn't changed, she told us, but she liked it that way because she knows her mom is being strict for her own good.

As our conversation continued, however, it was obvious that the pretty actress wanted the restrictions on her relaxed. She says she has no intentions of leading a wild life if she's allowed to have more freedom. She has proven to be a responsible daughter and is not one to abuse this freedom.

How about it, Mrs. Hermosa?

Questions for "Band of Brothers" Episode 7

1. Who lost a leg following the attack on Bastogne? A. Randleman b. Toye c. Muck

2. Which soldier was rumored to have killed German POWs after offering them cigarettes? A. Winters B. Eugene c. Speirs

3. Who incurred the ire of his men because of his incompetence as a commander? A. Dike B. Lipton C. Randleman

Send all entries to "Switching Channels-Band of Brothers Contest," P.O. Box 512 Greenhills Post Office, San Juan, Metro Manila

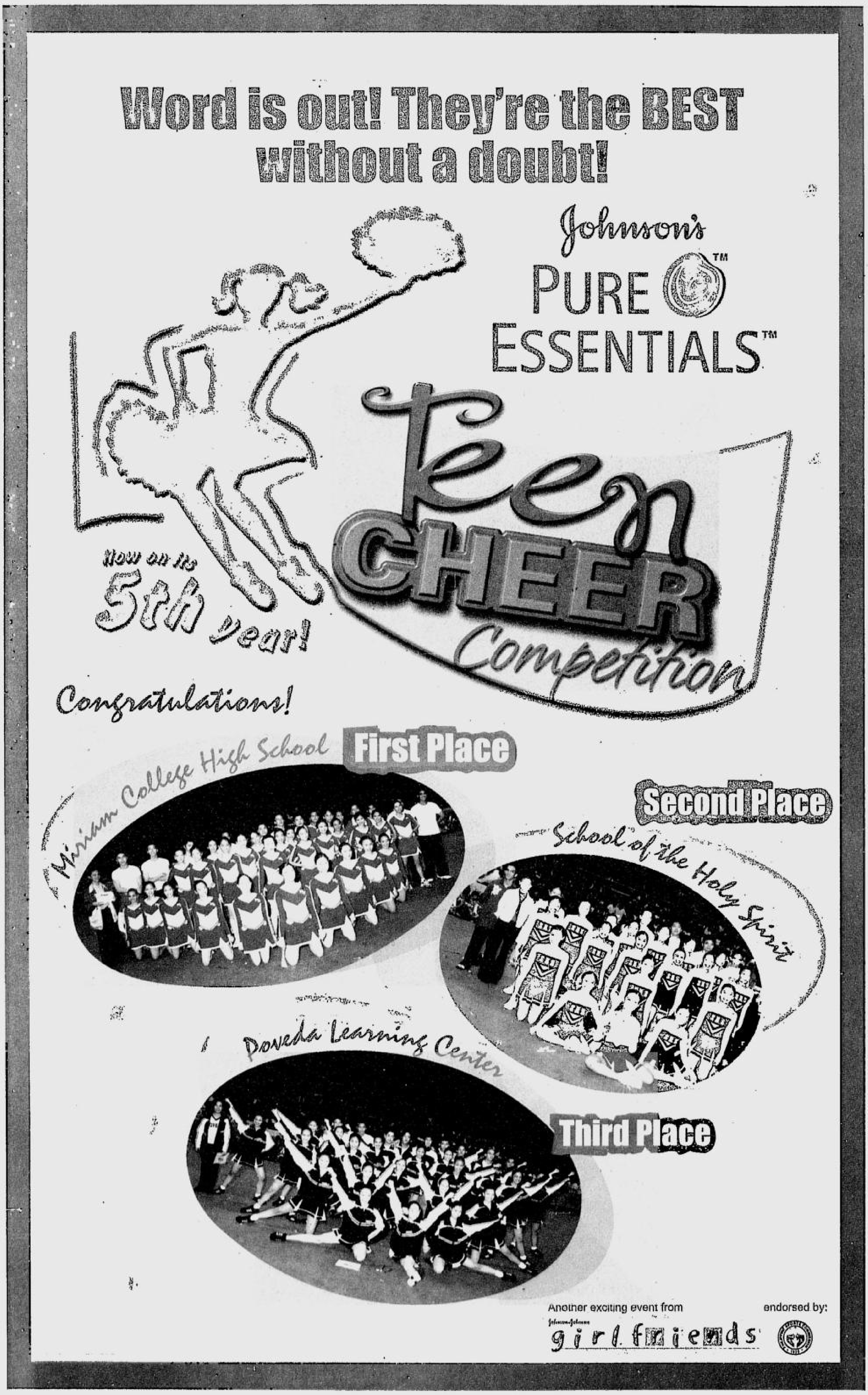
Entries must be postmarked on or before Dec. 1, 2001. Winners will be announced on Dec. 8.

The following are the answers and winners for Episode 4:

Answers—1. C. First sergeant 2. B. Randelman 3. A. True

Winners—Ma. Corazon A. Aureus, Michael E. Mangonon, Laurelito M. Lauron, Paul Ryan Sales, Teresita H. Ang, Ronnie Que, Gonzalo Gonzales.

Winners will receive official "Band of Brothers" dog tags and caps. They have all been notified.



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Movie awards described and evaluated

By Leia Torre

(Conclusion)

THE PRACTICE of giving awards to deserving members of the film industry is not limited to organizations that have a limited turnover of people every year. Michael Gebert's "The Encyclopedia of Movie Awards" reveals that there are also awards whose recipients are decided upon by the final consumers of the films. Two such awards are the People's Choice Awards and the MTV Movie Awards.

Publicity

The People s Choice Awards was launched in the mid-'70s by Procter & Gamble, with the purpose of increasing publicity for the company's products without shouldering the exorbitant cost that doing so the usual way would entail. The popularity of awards shows made the creation of their own awards show a viable option for the home products giant.

The winners are really chosen by the public, using statistically sound research. Aside from movies, these awards also honor TV shows and recording artists.

The MTV Movie Awards are given out in June every year, months after all the other awards. These awards' goal is to commemorate the way MTV viewers consume movies by including awards such as Best Kiss, Most Desirable Male and Female, and Best Villain. These awards are chosen by viewers on a write-in basis during the first half of each year.

High point

The British Film Academy was founded by a group of British filmmakers to honor and promote their home film industry, which was at a high point just after the Second World War. Where most national awards honor only their own country's output, the British Academy has always officially opened its awards to the rest of the world.

Another awards event open to the international market is the Cannes International Film Festival. It is regarded as the most famous of all film festivals, and, although it is also described as a very entertaining "circus," it is first and foremost a business event.

The Venice International Film Festival, though not the first film festival in history, is the oldest film festival still active today. It has been used as the prototype for the modern film festival. Besides feature film awards, Venice gives awards to everything from children's films to TV commercials.

The Berlin International Film Festival, otherwise known as the "Berlinale," is regarded as the best-run of the major festivals. The festival was founded in 1951. The top film prize is the Golden Bear, and the awards for runners-up are called Silver Bears.

The Sundance Film Festival has proven itself to be the key film event for independent films. It got its start as the United States Film Festival in 1978 in Salt Lake City, and was afterwards transferred to the tiny ski town of Park City. The name "Sundance" was taken from the title of Robert Redford's movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

Screen performances

While there are awards for "best everythings" in the movie industry, there are also awards for movies and screen performances that are particularly horribly done. Two examples of such awards are the Harvard Lampoon Movie Worsts and the Golden Raspberry Awards.

Every year, the Harvard Lampoon humor magazine lists its 10 worst films, and gives out worst acting awards as well. Except for the list of the 10 worst films, the awards vary every year, depending on the whims of the magazine's staff.

The Golden Raspberry awards were founded by Los Angeles copywriter John Wilson, and gives the largely uncoveted "Razzie." The Raspberries' main target are those films that had every advantage big budgets could buy, but still turned out awful.

Aside from offering a history of all these awards-giving bodies, the book also lists down the recipients of the most important awards for all the years they were given. Not all the awards are listed down, due to lack of space. The writer offers occasional commentary on the subject, saving the book from becoming a boring read.

Difficult feat

The histories of the organizations are fascinating, and sometimes unbelievable. The writer has performed the difficult feat of providing the reader with complete lists of the most important citations of all the major award-giving bodies.

Aside from its entertainment value, the book is a useful tool for writers whose subject matter is the movie industry. It can be a very portable reference, being a one-volume book.

Movie buffs would also enjoy increasing their knowledge of their favorite films by scanning the lists provided in the latter part of the book. Trivia enthusiasts would likewise find a lot of "useless but interesting" tidbits, such as who won the Golden Raspberry award for worst actor in 1991 (Kevin Costner)!

Saturday SPECIAL

'Harry Potter' movie sets sights on triumphant holiday run

"HARRY POTTER." Sky's the limit.

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Just how high can Harry Potter fly?

After shattering North American box office records with a $90.3 million opening weekend, the first film about the boy wizard's adventures is expected to continue enchanting huge crowds through the holidays.

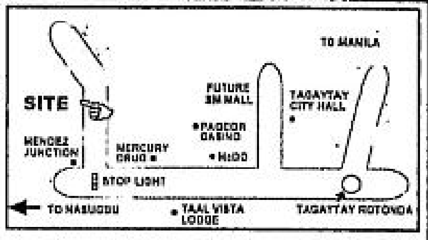
Opportunity

One of the strongest seasons for family films, the period from the US holiday of Thanksgiving through New Year's Day presents a sky's-the-limit opportunity for "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" to establish itself as one of the biggest franchises in Hollywood history.

Final numbers Monday came in $3.2 million lower than distributor Warner Bros. estimated a day earlier because Sunday ticket sales were lighter than predicted. But receipts for Friday and Saturday were higher than reported Sunday as theaters updated ticket totals.

The movie was closing in on $100 million

HARRY/p.D2



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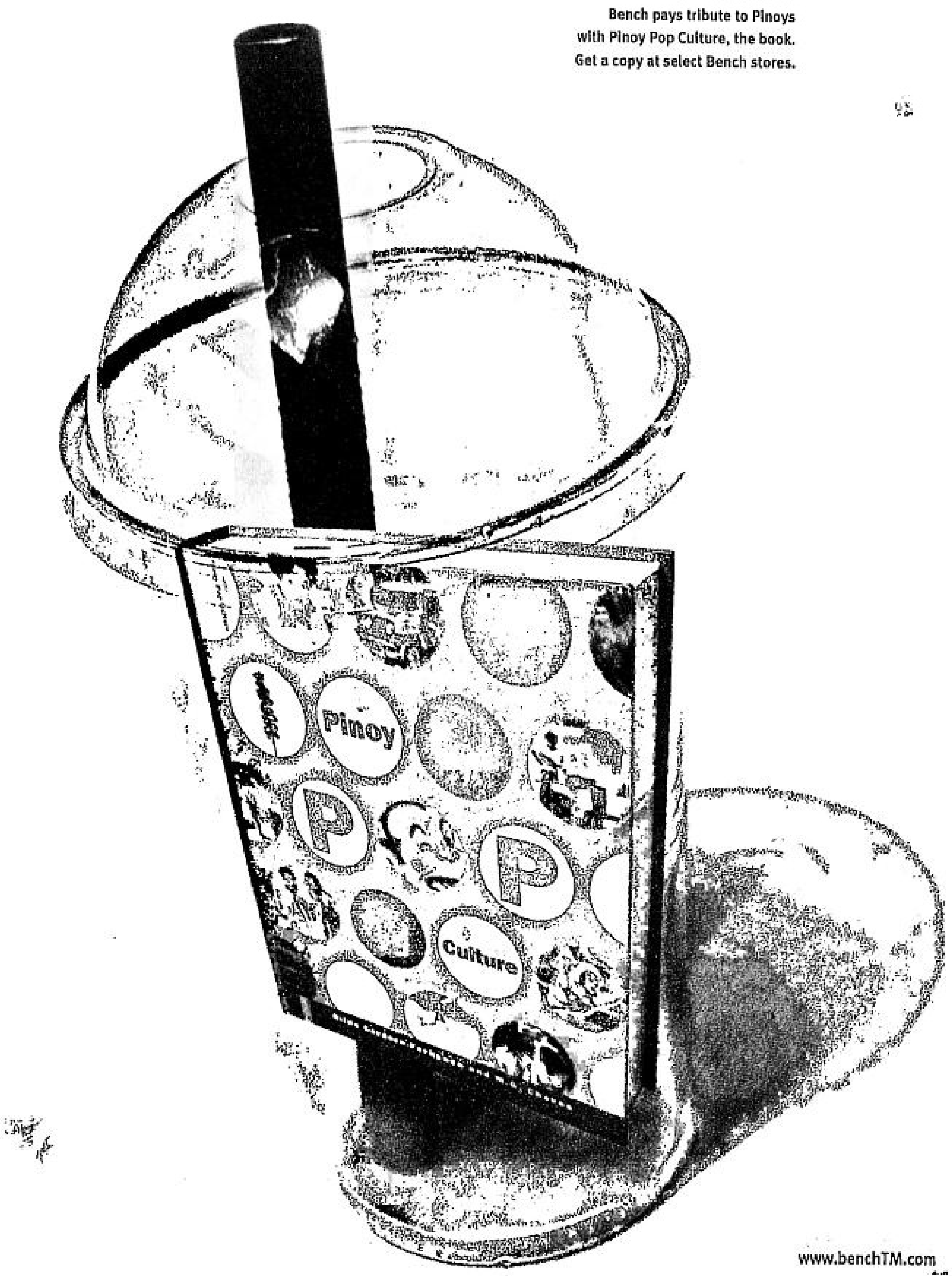

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How do you slay vampires without a stake

'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' is mildly entertaining

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Middle-aged bald guy walks into a bookstore. There's this publishing bandwagon people keep telling him to jump on about a boy wizard with a Nike swoosh on his forehead or some such.

He buys "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," reads it, remarks that it was mildly entertaining, and becomes as outcast as Lord Voldemort among Hogwarts-addicted acquaintances for failing to find it the greatest story ever told.

Sequels

More tolerant Potter-ites tell him the sequels are better. So middle-aged bald guy walks into a bookstore, buys "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," finds it mildly entertaining, and wonders if he's lost his sense of whimsy when people tell him, well, that he's lost his sense of whimsy.

So he walks into a bookstore, strolls past the displays of "Harry Potter" books and calendars and bubble bath and pot-holders. He buys Madeleine L'Engle's "A Wrinkle in Time," a standout among the many fantasy worlds he flung himself into as a boy.

ALAN Rickman, Maggie Smith and Ian Hart play Harry Potter's professors in the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

He finds it every bit as clever, enchanting and transporting as he did 30 years earlier. So he figures his sense of whimsy's still there, and has to wonder: What gives with this mania over "Harry Potter," which strikes him as just another reasonably worthy adventure series for kids?

Obligation

Which is a roundabout lead-in to one guy's take on the first "Harry Potter" movie: Mildly entertaining, but more than a little boring in places given the filmmakers' desire—and obligation—to be as faithful to and inclusive of J.K. Rowling's novel as possible.

Yet that same faithfulness and inclusiveness assure that "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" will score big with devotees, who might have burned director Chris Columbus at the stake had he dropped more than a ghost here or a centaur there.

It's all pretty much here: The shopping spree in Diagon Alley; Platform Nine and Three-Quarters and the express train to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry; the sorting hat; the bathroom troll, the three-headed dog and Norbert the baby dragon; Harry's invisibility cloak; the mirror of Erised; the Quidditch match aboard flying broomsticks; the showdown with the dark wizard Voldemort.

For the millions and millions who read the book, they'll know exactly what's coming, exactly when. That's a drawback for those not greatly enamored of the book: The film has no surprises, and if it failed to grab you on the page, it's not likely to grab you on the big screen.

But it's a plus for serious fans, who want their Harry Potter served up as close to the book as possible.

Precision

Special effects, lush sets and lavish costumes aside, recreating Harry's universe really rested with the casting, which Columbus and company accomplished with dead-on precision.

For the three young heroes, Columbus found physically ideal simulations: Daniel Radcliffe as Harry, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson as his pals Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger.

Can they act? Not terribly well, but well enough to carry the story, and they have plenty more "Potter" films to improve. This first outing really just needed serviceable performances, along with round spectacles and that lightning-bolt scar for Harry, an orange mop-top and a few ebullient exclamations of "Brilliant!" for Ron, and bushy hair and a bossy glare for Hermione.

It's the adults that shine, notably Robbie Coltrane's jolly, lumbering groundskeeper Hagrid, Maggie Smith's starchy but compassionate Professor McGonagall, and Richard Harris' regal Albus Dumbledore, Hogwarts' philosopher king.

Alan Rickman supplies priceless glowers as Harry's faculty foe, Professor Snape, Ian Hart is suitably servile as stuttering Professor Quirrell, and John Hurt adds a playful highlight as wand peddler Ollivander.

"Harry Potter" unfortunately shortchanges the comic talents of Julie Walters as Ron's big-hearted mother and John Cleese as the ghost Nearly Headless Nick, whose roles amount to bare walk-ons (or float-ons, in Cleese's case).

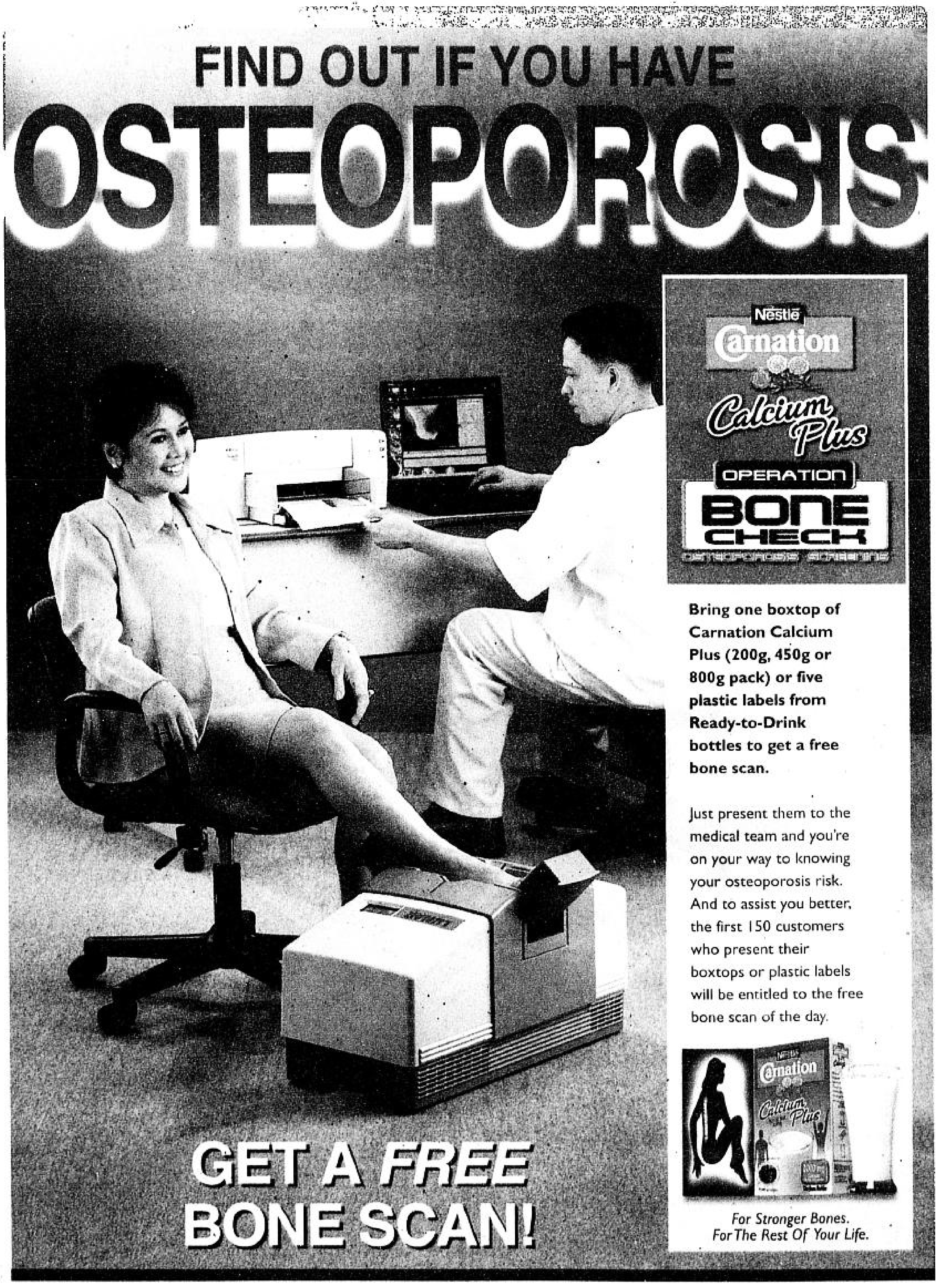
Scattershot

Warner Bros. hired seemingly every visual-effects house in the business to craft Hogwarts and its trappings. The results are mostly fine, though scattershot in places.

The Quidditch field is a delightful mix of Camelot tapestry and gravity-defying box-seat towers, yet some of the flying-broomstick visuals seem curiously phony. The troll is a solidly goofy creation, yet the film's lone centaur is so masked in darkness it looks like an unfinished effect.

Perhaps the luckiest crowds to see the movie will be those who haven't read "Harry Potter." To them, with the characters and events entirely new, "Harry Potter" could be just the sort of magical escape they need from dark times in the real world.

As for the middle-aged bald guy, he walks to his bookshelf and puts his two "Harry Potter" books next to his copy of Charles Mackay's "Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds." He sets "A Wrinkle in Time" close at hand, on his bedside table. *AP*



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Weight lifting, helps build bones as well. As you lift the weights, your muscles pull against your bones, stimulating osteoblasts to, again, create new bone.

The key is to be more active and less sedentary. Get up from that chair and head outdoors!

But first, check with your doctor to see how far you can go with your exercises. If you already have osteoporosis, avoid exercises that require you to bend backwards and forwards or involve high-impact moves or the risk of falling. If you prefer working out on a treadmill, use one with sturdy handrails to keep you steady and balanced.

For more health information, see this month's issue of *Prevention* magazine. Available at selected bookstores, drug stores, magazine stands and health food stores.
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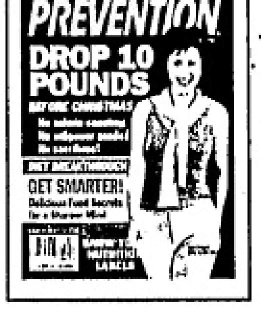

'Harry Potter' movie sets sights on triumphant holiday run

(From page D1)

domestically after just four days. It had a chance to cross that mark Monday, but it was more likely to reach that level Tuesday, said Warner head of distribution Dan Fellman. That would match the record set by "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace," which hit $100 million in five days.

Box office analyst Robert Bucksbaum of Reel Source Inc. said "Harry Potter" could be pushing $200 million by the end of Thanksgiving weekend. "Phantom Menace" was the fastest film to reach that level, topping $200 million in 13 days.

Repeat business

Warner Bros. declined predictions on how much the film might ultimately gross. Despite the movie's 2 1/2-hour length, the studio reported "Harry Potter" already is drawing significant repeat business, a key to reaching blockbuster status.

Fellman said he had a call from a Texas theater manager who told him a father and son came out of "Harry Potter," found out the next show wasn't yet sold out and jumped in line to see it again.

"People will be forgoing turkey on Thanksgiving to go to the movies and see 'Harry Potter,'" Bucksbaum said. "It's phenomenal.

"There's nothing that can stand in the way of this film. You're going to get kids seeing it over and over again, because there's a lot you can miss in 2 1/2 hours that you'll want to see again."

Previous record

The movie easily broke the record for top three-day debut, bumping "The Lost World: Jurassic Park," which grossed $72.1 million in its first three days over Memorial Day weekend in 1997.

"Harry Potter" even matched the $90.1 million "Lost World" rang up for the entire four-day Memorial Day weekend.

"Harry Potter" delivered the two best single-day takes ever, grossing $32.33 million Friday and $33.51 million Saturday.

The previous best was "Phantom Menace" with $28.5 million on opening day in 1999. On Sunday, "Harry Potter" grossed $24.45 million.

The movie also broke box office records in Great Britain, where it grossed $22.9 million over opening weekend. That beat the previous record of $13.6 million for "Phantom Menace."

"Sorcerer's Stone" is adapted from the first book of J.K. Rowling's fantasy series about a boy magician at a school for witchcraft and wizardry. The first sequel has begun shooting in England and is due in theaters just before next Thanksgiving.

Opening "Harry Potter" the week before Thanksgiving, Warner followed the lead of last year's "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," which opened big and held strongly over Thanksgiving.

"The purpose of opening at Thanksgiving is to give a family film a double bite of the apple," Fellman said. "You get it at Thanksgiving, then you get it again at Christmas. The history of some of the biggest family films like 'Toy Story 2' and 'Grinch' is they rebound beautifully at Christmas time." *AP*

'Pagdating ng Panahon' articulates listeners' aspirations

BY LEIA TORRE

AIZA Seguerra, that cute kid who was discovered when she shone in "Eat Bulaga's" Little Miss Philippines pageant, has grown up. Once known as the little girl with the comic eccentricity of saying "bow" after almost every statement, Aiza has developed into a young woman whose magnetic and soothing alto voice gives new meaning to every song she sings.

Emotion

She puts a lot of emotion into every song she sings, making the listener appreciate the lyrics as much as she does. Some of the songs in her first album are already established, popular ones, but she makes them her own by imbuing them with her own unique touch. She is able to do this because she is a good interpreter of songs.

By not attempting to imitate the style of the original singer, her renditions turn out to be not merely xerox copies of the originals but something new and exciting in their own right. Through Aiza's singing, the familiar lyrics of old songs are given new life, breathed into them by her talent

PAGDATING/p.D4

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How do you battle gladiators without an axe?

Imelda Papin revives hit song she first waxed 20 years ago

By Remy M. Umerez

THE MUSICAL career of Imelda Papin has been an exceptional one. The last few years have seen Imelda busy fulfilling concert engagements abroad. Before she reigned supreme as the country's jukebox queen, she was the toast of Bangkok. She has toured the USA, Europe and many Asian countries.

New album

Everytime Imelda records a new album, the public has always been in her heart. Her latest album, "Nag-iisang Imelda" under Universal Records, is again dedicated to the *masang* Pinoy.

It features several yesterhits made popular by other Pinoy singers. All of them charted No. 1 so the songstress has to give her best interpretation to provide new dimensions to the popular ditties.

Take a closer look at such inviting titles as "Tunay at Huling Pag-Ibig" (Willy Garte), "Sa Mata Makikita" (Roel Cortez), "Muling Ibalik" (First Cousins), "Tanging Ikaw" (Zander Khan), "Hindi Ako Laruan" (Mimi Baylon), "Guhit ng Palad" and "Dalawa Kaming Api" (Vernie Gonzales).

There's also the first single "Tutulungan Kita" composed by Emil Losenada and Rey Gob, and a Roel Cortez original hit; plus Imelda's own hit last year, "Ikaw Lamang," penned by Dodong Losenada.

Biggest attraction

But the biggest attraction of the album is undoubtedly Imelda's all-time biggest hit, "Bakit (Kung Liligaya Ka Sa Piling ng Iba)."

The song was recorded by Imelda some 20 years ago and many attempts has been made by other major recording companies to obtain the rights to revive the popular song. But no other female artist can interpret it with as much heartfelt emotion as Papin.

PAPIN. Heartfelt emotion.

How would Imelda describe her new version, compared to the one she waxed 20 years ago? "Recording it again has made it more meaningful, after all the changes in my life. With the advanced technology in sound, my new version is definitely an improvement as far as quality control is concerned," she says.

ALMEDA. Plays a wayward girl who finds happiness in the arms of a cult leader.

Priscilla Almeda stars in another controversial movie

By Edmund L. Sicam

PRISCILLA Almeda, the sexy star of the controversial "Sutla," is back on the screen with a movie that she finished a year ago, "Huwag Kang Kikibo." The movie was rated for adults only by the Armida Siguion-Reyna board but was put on hold when the moralists angrily protested the proliferation of so-called "pornographic films." Inititially, the movie was called "Huwag Kang Kikibo, Diyos ang Hihipo" but the MTRCB disapproved the full title.

Whisper

The phrase remains in the movie's dialogue, however. Before Raymond goes to bed with his followers, he whispers to them, "*Huwag kang kikibo, Diyos ang hihipo. Huwag kang gagalaw, siya ang nasa ibabaw.*"

Will Priscilla cause another upheaval with her latest project? Well, we've seen the film and it definitely shows more explicit scenes than those depicted in recent works like "Dos Ekis" and "Red Diaries." However, the sex scenes are not as intense as the ones in "Sutla."

The storyline, about a wayward girl who finds happiness in the arms of a cult leader (Raymond Bagatsing), is rather thin and it is quite obvious that the plot has been manipulated to justify Priscilla's daring and baring sequences.

Moralists may find the movie objectionable but director Gil Portes is ready to face the consequences. In a press statement, he said, "Our film may be erotic but pornographic it is not. It's not blasphemous, either. On the contrary, it has a timely message in this day and age, when fake prophets abound."

Moral fiber

Besides, according to him, there are so many other pressing problems in the country that we should worry about. A film like "Huwag Kang Kikibo" will not weaken the moral fiber of the country. Also, it's rated for mature audiences who should be able to handle the sizzling scenes without getting the compulsion to rape the first person they see after leaving the moviehouse.

The director cites the case filed by a couple against the producer of "Sutla" and members of the MTRCB who approved the movie, calling it a dereliction of duty and a conspiracy.

Recently, the Sandiganbayan acquitted the defendants saying, "'Sutla' taken and viewed in its total context, is a decent and reputable film with serious, literary, redeeming, and artistic value."

Co-starring with Raymond and Priscilla in "Huwag Kang Kikibo" are Via Veloso as the high priestess of the cult, Camille Roxas as a young mother who defies the cult leader, Leandro Baldemor as Priscilla's first boyfriend, Lawrence David as the priest who opposes Raymond's cult, and Cheska Diaz as the leader's estranged wife.

'Pagdating ng Panahon' articulates listeners' aspirations

(From page D3)

and enthusiasm for singing. When listening to the album, you can tell that Aiza is really enjoying what she is doing.

Original

Another thing that is admirable about her is that she does not try to be a diva. She is not afraid to be original and appear to the public as the person she really is. As a result, she comes across as more natural, less contrived.

Her album, "Pagdating ng Panahon," includes 10 songs that compose an eclectic mix of musical styles. Some of the numbers are upbeat, with a rhythm to which you can almost snap your fingers, while some are solemn, with simple instrumentals.

The carrier song is about unrequited love, one of the concepts people find *so* romantic. This song has been dominating the airwaves for the past few months now, and it is hard to find someone who cannot at least hum along with it. Even those who have sworn off patronizing Tagalog songs because they find them corny would recognize the tune.

Perhaps one of the reasons that this song has enjoyed its current popularity is that most people find it easy to imagine themselves in the same situation. After all, more of us have experienced unrequited love than being forever in love.

Message

The song became a hit because it was performed by someone who gave life to the words and who interpreted them so well that listeners couldn't possibly miss the message they carried.

The only other Tagalog song in the album, "Ikaw Ang Aking Mahal," has a groovy beat you can almost dance to. It contains the usual undying pledge of love people offer to each other whenever they fancy themselves to be in love. Although the lyrics are predictable, sometimes even bordering on corny, the song is redeemed in part by Aiza's unique interpretation. (*To be concluded*)

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2. Non-winning Image Model and Lucky Searcher entries are also qualified for the draws. So send as many entries as you can!

* *Entries must be received at least 5 days before the screening-draw dates: (1st) Jan. 16, 2002, (2nd) Mar. 18, 2002; (3rd) May 16, 2002*

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Final Image Model candidates and their Lucky Searchers (if any) will be notified by registered mail. They must confirm their participation on or before May 24, 2002.

The Lucky Searchers will have to show their registered mail and present a valid ID on the screening date.

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Jennifer Aniston plays with fame

IN the fickle world of Hollywood, Jennifer Aniston has been the flavor of the month for a couple of years running. "It's got nothing to do with me," she says. "I'm just the vessel." Not quite. Her marriage last year to Brad Pitt may be one big reason she's still in the headlines, but despite her denials, the "Friends" star has her own staying power.

THE ROCK scene scares Aniston.

Dramatic risks

After a few tentative steps into film, acting mostly in light romantic comedies, Aniston is taking some dramatic risks as a musician's neglected girlfriend in Warner Bros.' "Rock Star." She admits she knows nothing about the rock scene, but at this point in her career, she's ready to prove to audiences that she really can act. Q & A:

Did you research your role in "Rock Star" by going to concerts?

No, I can't say that I joined the craziness. I've seen a couple of shows in my life, but . . . I didn't do the rock scene very much. [Laughs] It scares me, truthfully.

Did you ever hang out with any of the hair bands?

I never hung out with a band. And I'll tell you, I don't have a favorite.

How can you not have a favorite band?

I love so many different bands and different kinds of music. Aerosmith's always been a favorite. Led Zepplin's always been a favorite. Radiohead's a favorite.

Speaking of Aerosmith, you made an interesting comment recently about sleeping with Steven Tyler.

[Laughs] I wish I'd never said it. It was a joke in passing between my [illegible] and me. I do love Steven Tyler, though. I think he's phenomenal and very, very, very beautiful, but that was all.

Silly thing

It's just a silly thing that's bitten me in the butt.

You and Brad Pitt recently celebrated your first anniversary, didn't you?

We did. See, we made it. Who'd [have] thought?

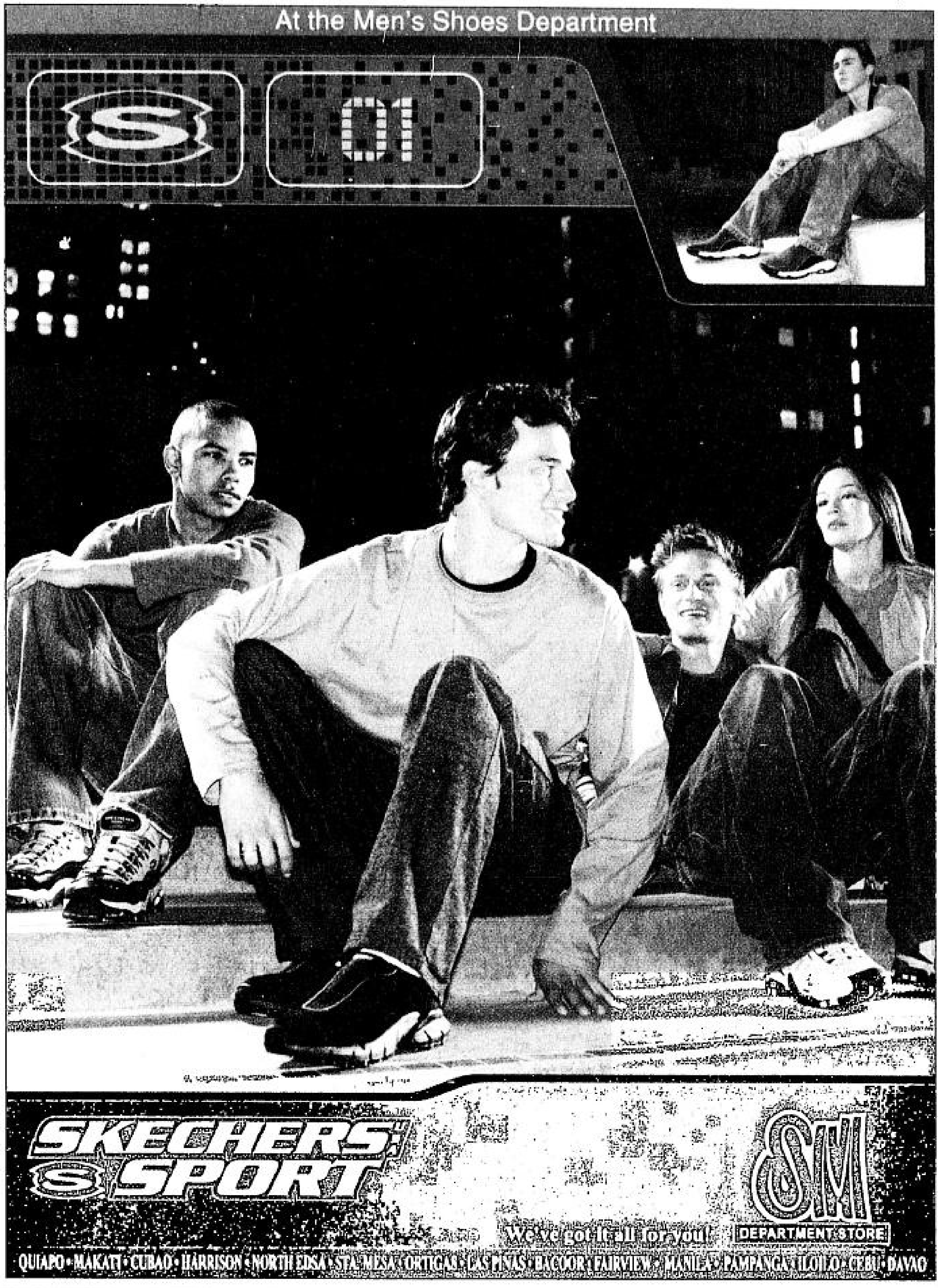
Do you remember ever not being married even after one year?

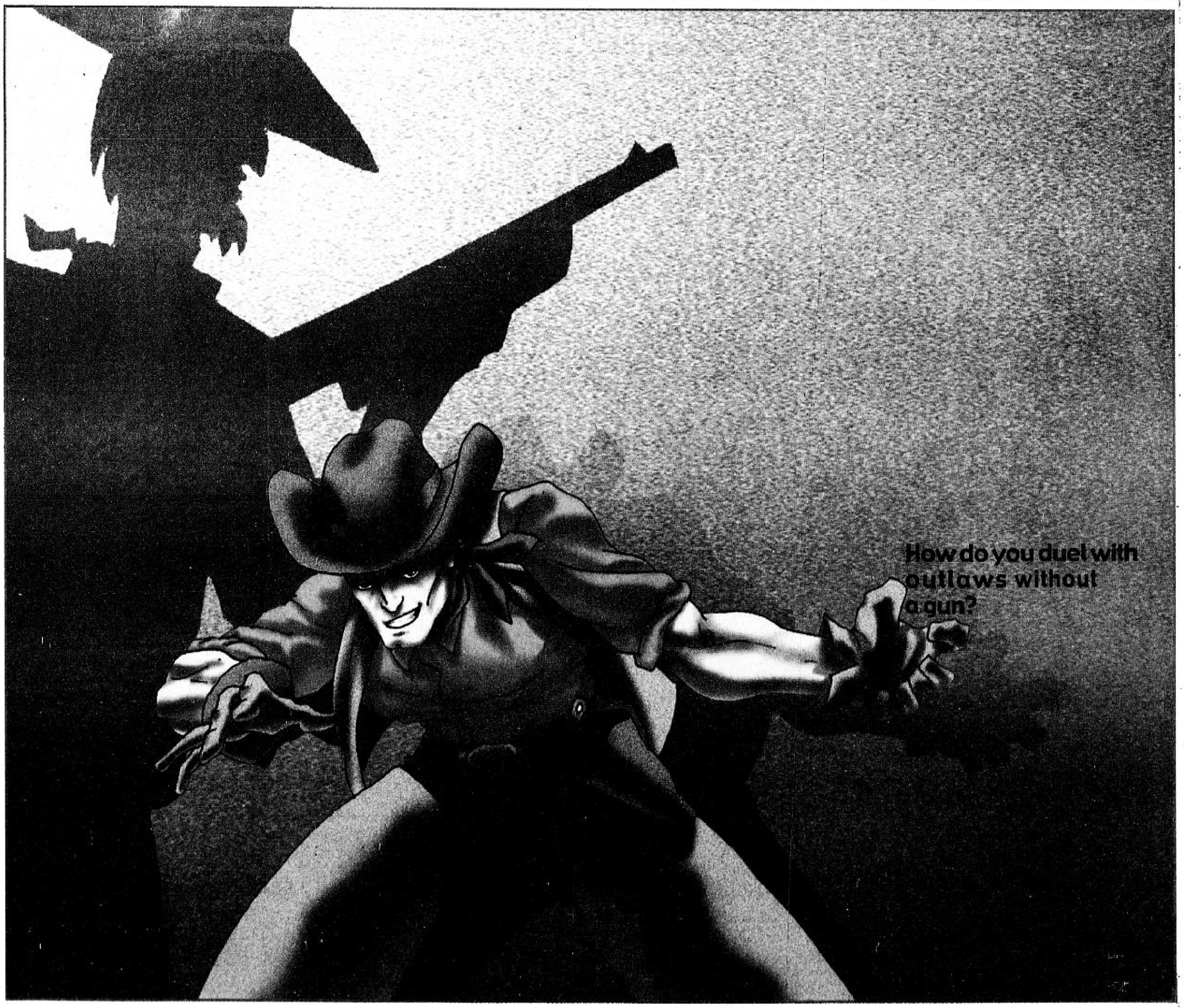
You just don't feel like it was ever any other way. It's true.

Your character in "Rock Star" fades into the background when her guy becomes famous. Can you and Brad relate to that?

We know of that happening in people's lives

JENNIFER/p.D6

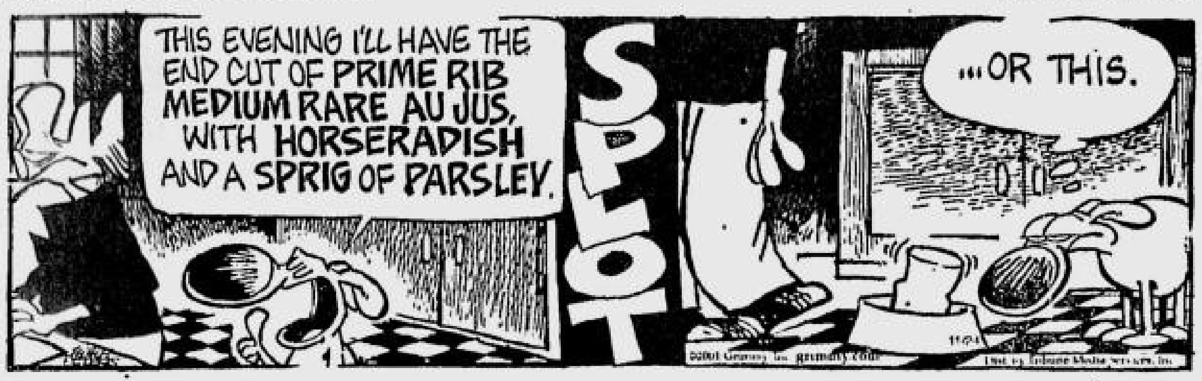

At the Men's Shoes Department
S
01
SKECHERS SPORT
We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO


How do you duel with outlaws without a gun?

COMIC Relief

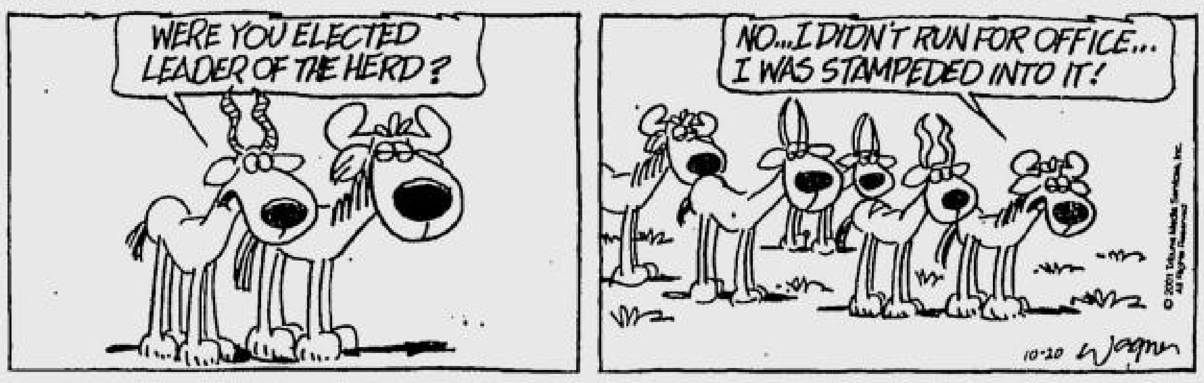
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THIS EVENING I'LL HAVE THE END CUT OF PRIME RIB MEDIUM RARE AU JUS, WITH HORSERADISH AND A SPRIG OF PARSLEY.
SPLOT
...OR THIS.

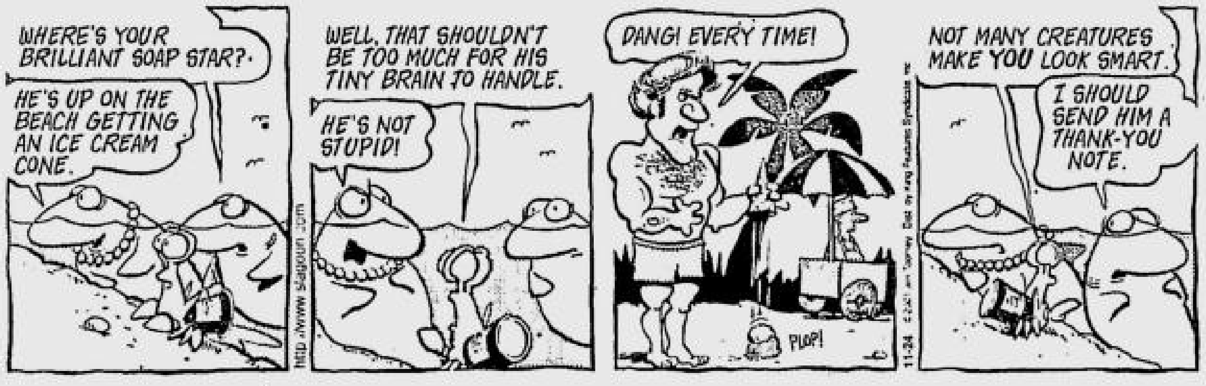
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WERE YOU ELECTED LEADER OF THE HERD?
NO...I DIDN'T RUN FOR OFFICE... I WAS STAMPEDED INTO IT!
10-20 Wagner

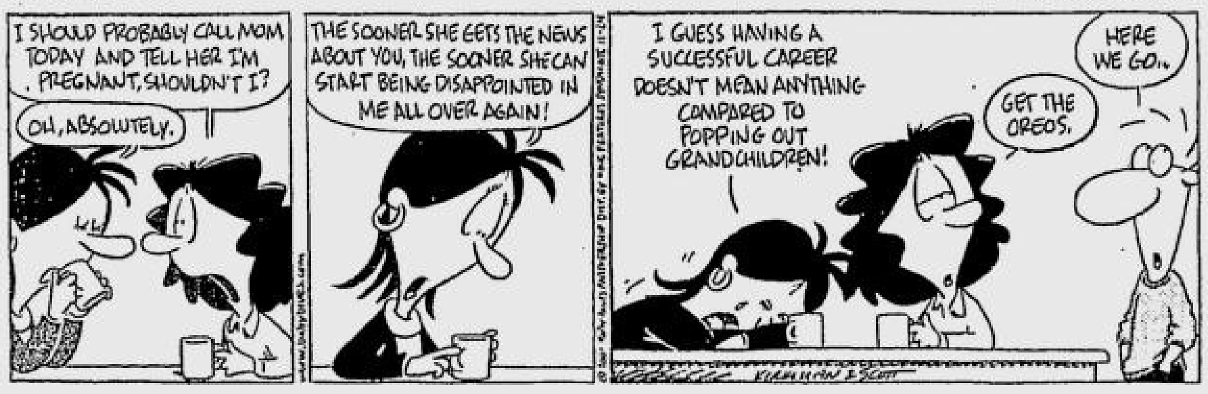
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHERE'S YOUR BRILLIANT SOAP STAR?
HE'S UP ON THE BEACH GETTING AN ICE CREAM CONE.
WELL, THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH FOR HIS TINY BRAIN TO HANDLE.
HE'S NOT STUPID!
DANG! EVERY TIME!
PLOP!
NOT MANY CREATURES MAKE YOU LOOK SMART.
I SHOULD SEND HIM A THANK-YOU NOTE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I SHOULD PROBABLY CALL MOM TODAY AND TELL HER I'M PREGNANT, SHOULDN'T I?
OH, ABSOLUTELY.
THE SOONER SHE GETS THE NEWS ABOUT YOU, THE SOONER SHE CAN START BEING DISAPPOINTED IN ME ALL OVER AGAIN!
I GUESS HAVING A SUCCESSFUL CAREER DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING COMPARED TO POPPING OUT GRANDCHILDREN!
GET THE OREOS.
HERE WE GO...
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: William F. Buckley, Paul Tagliabue, Billy Connolly, Linda Tripp, Claudia Dreifus
Happy Birthday: You are dedicated and eager to finish what you start. If you work hard, you can put your great ideas into play. You'll expect a lot from yourself and from others. Your uncanny memory will rescue you from a situation that refers to days gone by. Your numbers: 15, 18, 26, 31, 34, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spend your day productively. Interesting hobbies may provide some wonderful ideas that could prove prosperous. Don't wait for an invitation; pick up the phone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Love is in the air, so interact with others. Your warmth and openness will attract some interesting partners, but don't take unnecessary risks. Get to know him well before deciding to become intimate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't take things the wrong way emotionally, which could interfere with your p obligations. A colleague has a personal interest in you. Careful; mixing business with pleasure could be dangerous.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't make rash decisions. Stay put or be cautious while traveling to foreign countries. Travel over the Internet instead and make plans to do something exotic closer to home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's high time you joined a group that offers the mental stimulation you desire. Join a theater group or attend a play and encourage friends or family to join you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have plenty to do, but let trivial matters ride. It won't be worth the aggravation. Stick to your responsibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think—don't retaliate. You may say something you'll regret. Stay busy with events that will raise your spirits. Life is too short to spend your day pouting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Present your creative works and don't be afraid to push your beliefs and opinions. You can persuade others to follow or support your cause.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone may not know which way is up today. If you can remain calm, it will help him or her come to terms with the problems. You need to reflect before making a final decision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Step up to the podium and make yourself heard. If you believe in your ideas, the response will be positive and others will have confidence in you.

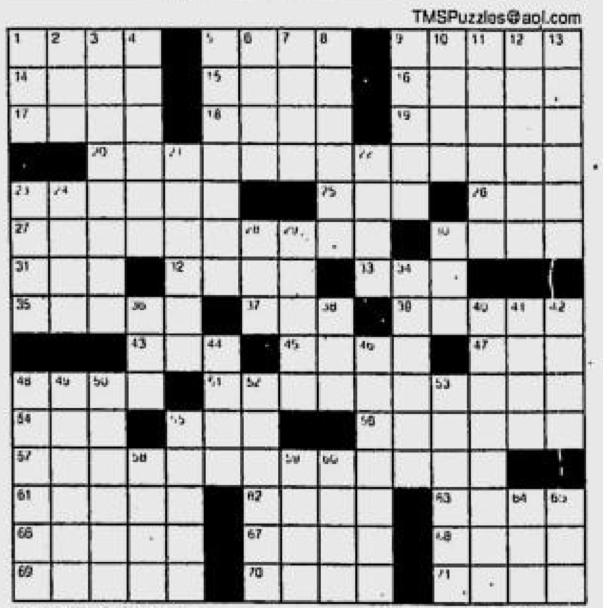
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Lady luck is with you. Helping someone sort out personal papers will bring rewards. You have the insight and knowledge to balance your budget and build equity. Wheel and deal with confidence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Humanitarian organizations will bring new friendships. Understanding the dynamics of what is going on around you will enable you to make valuable contributions.

Birthday Baby: You always follow your heart and that small voice within you. You like to wander, but will always return to your roots and the ones you love.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

10/10/01

ACROSS
1 Poetic peepers
5 Vocalize an ache
9 Iditarod rides
14 Baby powder
15 Forearm bone
16 Gas stove light
17 Thunder god
18 Disappointing grades
19 Missouri feeder
20 Browser
23 Push forward
25 Arctic sea bird
26 Japanese honorific
27 Camera buff
30 Infamous fiddler
31 Part of a tennis match
32 Russian autocrat
33 Flock female
35 Sample
37 Ford fuel
39 Whits
43 Time-wasting bother
45 Worsted fiber
47 Barcelona bravo
48 Lenient
51 Shrinking violet
54 Nest-egg initials
55 Auction ending?
56 Betrothed man
57 Secret listeners'
61 Ermine in summer
62 Out of the wind
63 Little rascals
66 To the point
67 Singer Simone
68 Mil. alliance
69 Nincompoops
70 Stones song, "Honky __ Women"
71 Do beaver's work

DOWN
1 Hall-of-Famer Mel
2 Fan's belt?
3 Total routs
4 Play lines
5 Mismanages
6 Bread spread
7 In a fresh way
8 Capital of the Bahamas
9 Secret agent
10 Enunciation problem
11 Slip away
12 Turned-down corner
13 Chafing-dish heat
21 Cleared
22 Gargantuan
23 Attention-getter
24 Ostrich's cousin
28 Tattered T-shirt
29 Donnybrook
30 Natal starter?
34 Jockey Shoemaker
36 Create lace
38 Scale note
40 Villager
41 Guinness or Baldwin
42 Withered
44 Due
46 Cheap-rate time
48 Sonora snooze
49 Speaks from a soapbox
50 Special privileges
52 Without moderation
53 Rowing
55 Senator Kefauver
58 Lighten
59 Hodgepodge
60 Sean or William
64 Harper Valley grp. of song
65 Boar's mate

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	A	L	E	M	■	B	E	T	S	■	L	A	M	A
A	R	E	N	A	■	E	L	I	A	■	I	D	A	S
M	A	T	E	R	I	A	L	C	O	M	F	O	R	T
E	L	S	■	I	N	C	A	S	■	E	E	R	I	E
■	■	■	B	A	C	H	■	■	W	A	R	N	E	R
S	P	E	E	C	H	■	S	U	I	T	■	■	■	■
A	L	L	A	H	■	C	O	R	N	■	S	H	U	L
F	A	B	R	I	C	O	F	S	O	C	I	E	T	Y
E	Y	E	D	■	Z	E	T	A	■	O	R	I	E	L
■	■	■	■	Z	A	N	Y	■	A	V	E	R	S	E
B	I	T	T	E	R	■	■	A	M	E	S	■	■	■
A	L	I	E	N	■	A	L	L	A	N	■	R	I	A
B	O	L	T	O	F	L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G
E	V	E	R	■	R	O	S	E	■	R	E	T	I	E
S	E	R	A	■	Y	E	A	R	■	Y	E	A	T	S

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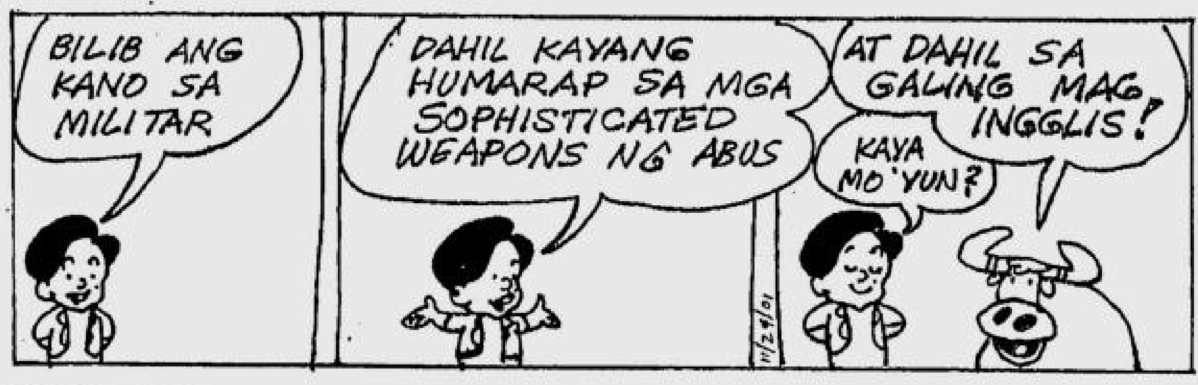
10/10/01

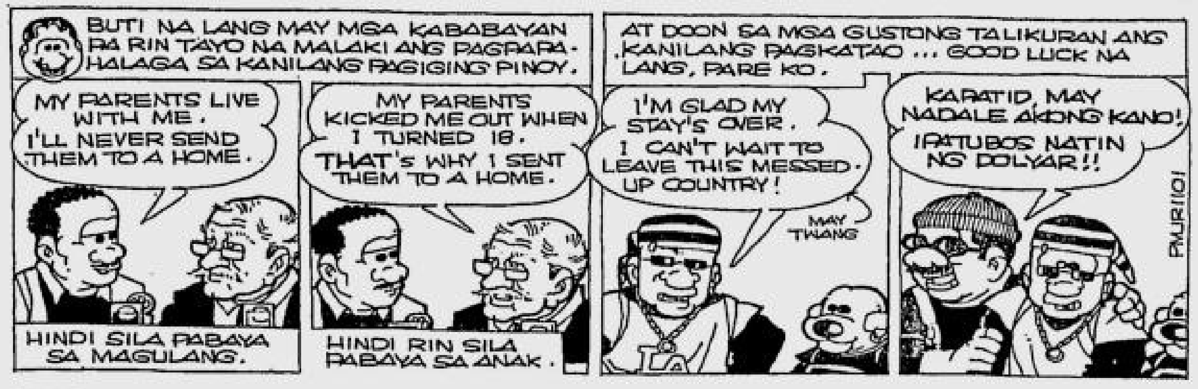
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BILIB ANG KANO SA MILITAR
DAHIL KAYANG HUMARAP SA MGA SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS NG ABUS
AT DAHIL SA GALING MAG INGGLIS!
KAYA MO 'YUN?
11/24/01

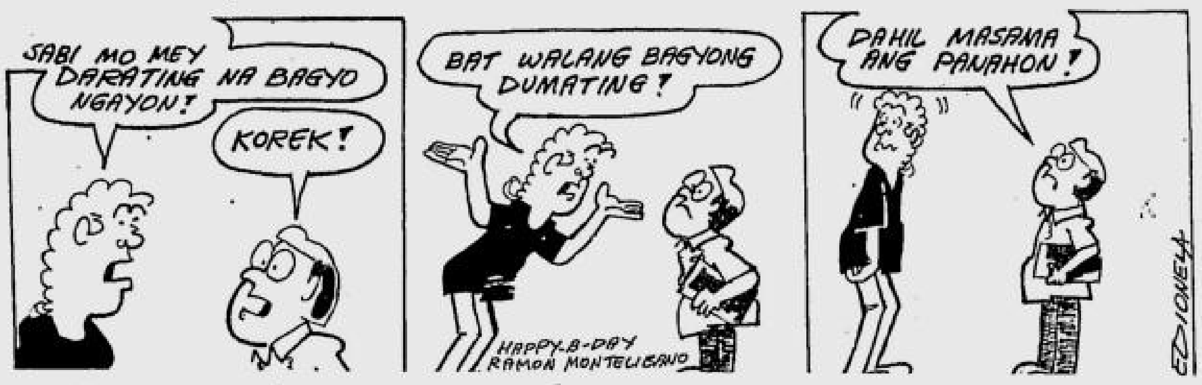
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUTI NA LANG MAY MGA KABABAYAN PA RIN TAYO NA MALAKI ANG PAGPAPAHALAGA SA KANILANG PAGIGING PINOY.
MY PARENTS LIVE WITH ME. I'LL NEVER SEND THEM TO A HOME.
HINDI SILA PABAYA SA MAGULANG.
MY PARENTS KICKED ME OUT WHEN I TURNED 18. THAT'S WHY I SENT THEM TO A HOME.
HINDI RIN SILA PABAYA SA ANAK.
AT DOON SA MGA GUSTONG TALIKURAN ANG KANILANG PAGKATAO ... GOOD LUCK NA LANG, PARE KO.
I'M GLAD MY STAY'S OVER. I CAN'T WAIT TO LEAVE THIS MESSED-UP COUNTRY!
MAY TWANG
KARATID, MAY NADALE AKONG KANO! IPATUBOS NATIN NG DOLYAR!!
PMJR101

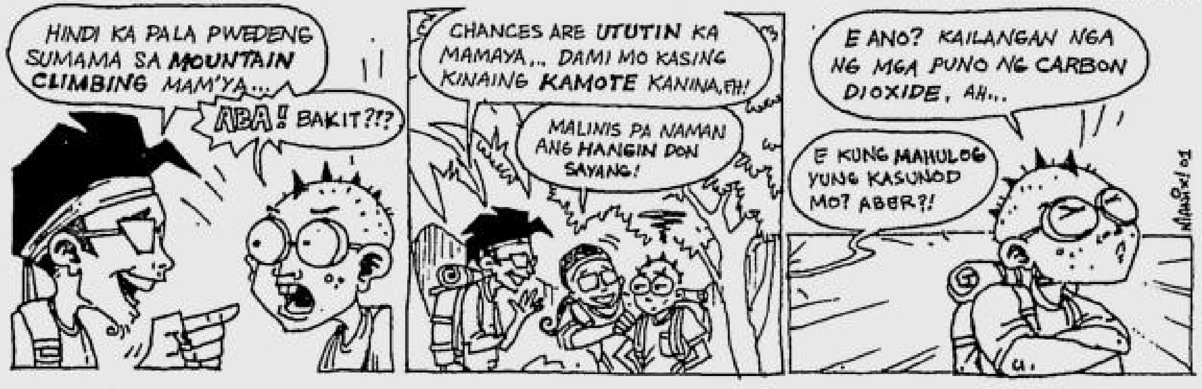
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SABI MO MEY DARATING NA BAGYO NGAYON!
KOREK!
BAT WALANG BAGYONG DUMATING?
HAPPY B-DAY RAMON MONTELIBANO
DAHIL MASAMA ANG PANAHON!
EDIONELA

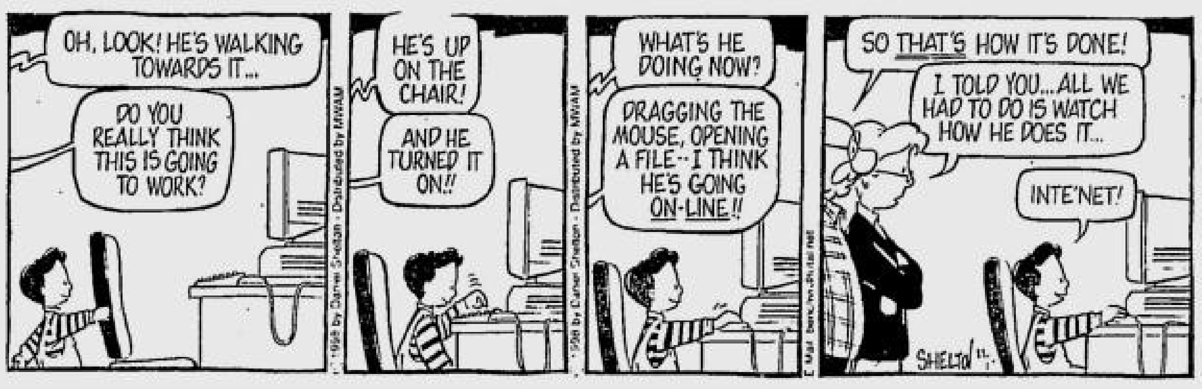
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


HINDI KA PALA PWEDENG SUMAMA SA MOUNTAIN CLIMBING MAM'YA...
ABA! BAKIT?!?
CHANCES ARE UTUTIN KA MAMAYA... DAMI MO KASING KINAING KAMOTE KANINA, EH!
MALINIS PA NAMAN ANG HANGIN DON SAYANG!
E ANO? KAILANGAN NGA NG MGA PUNO NG CARBON DIOXIDE, AH...
E KUNG MAHULOG YUNG KASUNOD MO? ABER?!
MANIX! 01

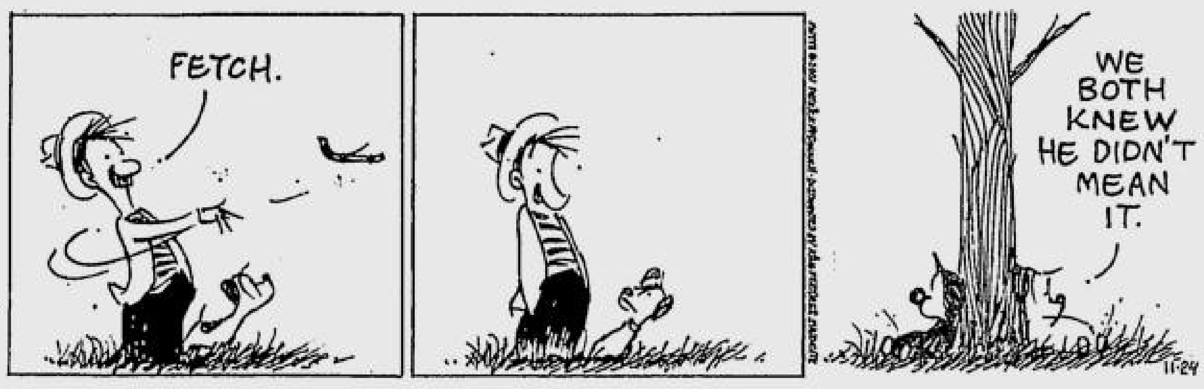
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH, LOOK! HE'S WALKING TOWARDS IT...
DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK?
HE'S UP ON THE CHAIR!
AND HE TURNED IT ON!!
WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?
DRAGGING THE MOUSE, OPENING A FILE-- I THINK HE'S GOING ON-LINE!!
SO THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE!
I TOLD YOU...ALL WE HAD TO DO IS WATCH HOW HE DOES IT...
INTE'NET!
SHELTON

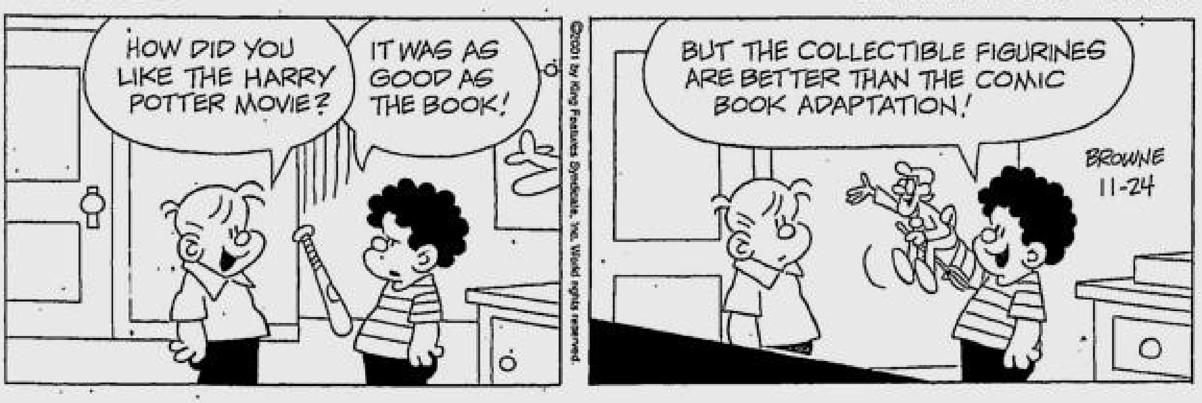
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FETCH.
WE BOTH KNEW HE DIDN'T MEAN IT.
11-24

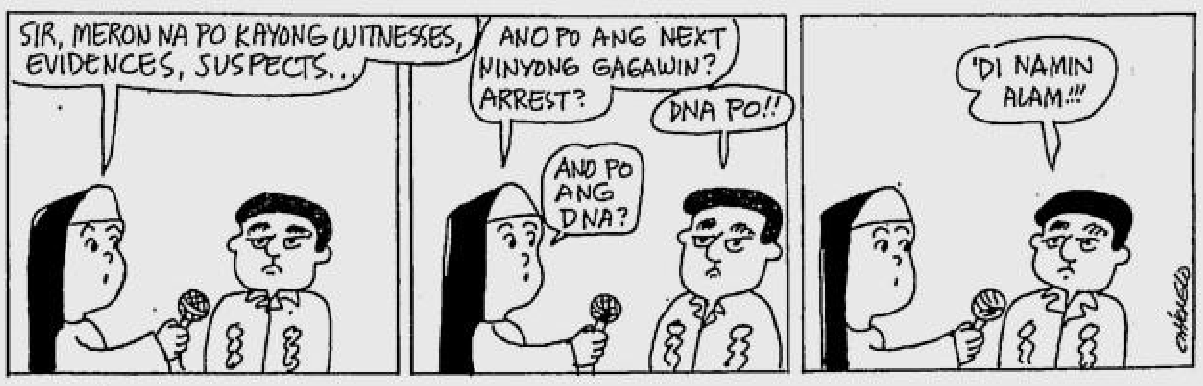
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HOW DID YOU LIKE THE HARRY POTTER MOVIE?
IT WAS AS GOOD AS THE BOOK!
BUT THE COLLECTIBLE FIGURINES ARE BETTER THAN THE COMIC BOOK ADAPTATION!
BROWNE 11-24

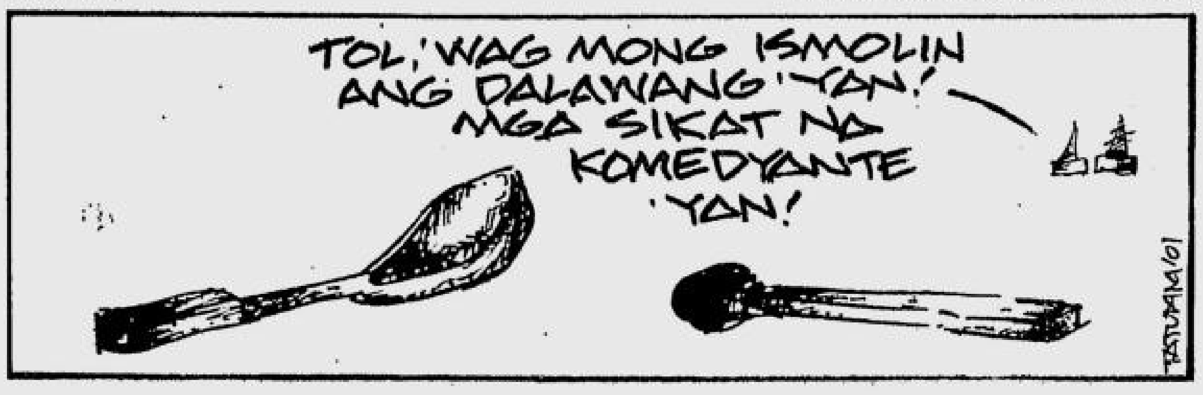
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SIR, MERON NA PO KAYONG WITNESSES, EVIDENCES, SUSPECTS...
ANO PO ANG NEXT NINYONG GAGAWIN? ARREST?
DNA PO!!
AND PO ANG DNA?
'DI NAMIN ALAM!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


TOL, 'WAG MONG ISMOLIN ANG DALAWANG 'YAN! MGA SIKAT NA KOMEDYANTE 'YAN!
TATUM/01

Jennifer Aniston plays with fame

(From page D5)

where one becomes very famous and the wife or the husband doesn't fit in the picture anymore. But there are also people that can handle it and see what it is and take it for what it is, which is just a big, old, fun game and not real.

Career

It's just for the moment. Hopefully, you have a career that will last a long time, and the work is important. But to get caught up in that sort of fame and glamour is pretty silly.

But it *is* real in many ways.

Yeah, for some people it's absolutely real. I don't mean it's not real. It exists and the industry exists, but this idea that it's some glamorous fantastic existence all the time . . . It's a nine to five job, you go to get your coffee in the morning, you go to work, you come home, you feed the dog.

How do people get caught up in the illusion?

I guess you choose to live in that scene. We just don't live in that so much.

You always say that you and Brad want to work together. Yet when Brad was connected to "Rock Star," you didn't want anything to do with it, but when he dropped out, you signed on.

Yeah, I know, that was weird. They were working on it for a while and then it just went away. Then, about a year later, I got the call from my manager and she said, "Do you remember "Rock Star?" And I said, "Yeah." They asked how I would feel about playing the girl. And I remembered there not being [that] part. And they said that they'd write one, they'd create it. So, it wasn't as if because he dropped out that I came onboard—there was never even a thought of it. It went away for about a year.

So how cool is that when a director wants a part written just for you?

That doesn't happen very often, so it was nice.

Would it be easy for you and Brad to work together, or would it just be all about Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt in a movie together?

Well, that's what we think, truthfully—the amount of media and the microscope we'd be under. I mean, we couldn't just go out and do a movie.

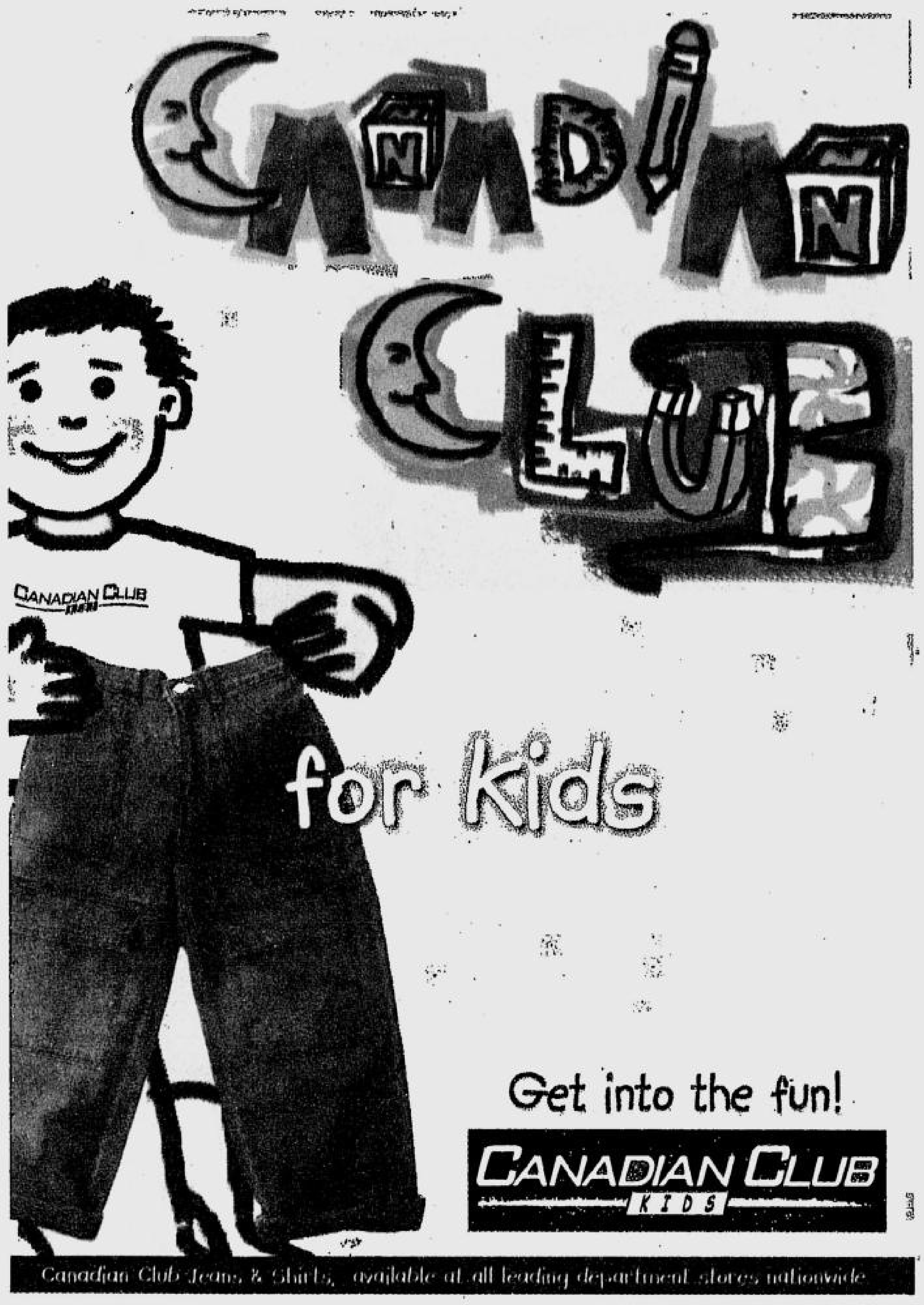
Media circus

It would be people just sitting back waiting [she wrings her hands deviously], you know? So it has to be right and it has to be good. Maybe we will in 15 years because right now there's still such [a] media circus happening.

When do you think it will end?

They'll get bored and move on to somebody else. You know, the next flavor or whatever. I think like anything, there's an ebb and flow and it's something to talk about, and they need to fill their pages with something else.

PITT and Aniston recently celebrated their first wedding anniversary.



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VAMPIRE SLAYER:
Day turns into night as Dracul and his hordes spread their evil over the world. Armed with superhuman strength and a few handy weapons, the fate of mankind lies in your hands.

Vampire Slayer is a single-player, multi-thread adventure game. Each day, you are faced with a brand new adventure. A successful mission earns you 300 points and you are penalized 50 points for each failure.

GLADIATOR WARS:
It is 200 A.D. and Claudius has a tenuous rule over Rome. His generals squabble over territory. And as a gladiator, it is your duty to settle these disputes in the only forum you know - the Coliseum.

Gladiator Wars is a single and dual-player game. With each battle, you can choose to be a lion, a cobra or a gladiator. Each victory is 30 points. Each loss costs 20 points. Draws earn 10 points for each player.

DUDE RANGER:
The west is as wild as ever. And spats between outlaws and lawmen have reached boiling point. The Sheriff is six feet under, and that leaves you to deal with the desperados.

Dude Ranger is a single and dual-player game. You can be an Outlaw or a Deputy, it's your choice. A successful hit on your opponent wins the game and earns you 200 points. Get hit and it will cost you the same.

To register a nickname:
REG Bruno — Type REG <nickname> Ex. REG Bruno
288 — Send to 288.
Welcome to SMART zed's multiplayer game! You are now registered as Bruno. — You will receive a confirmation of your registration.

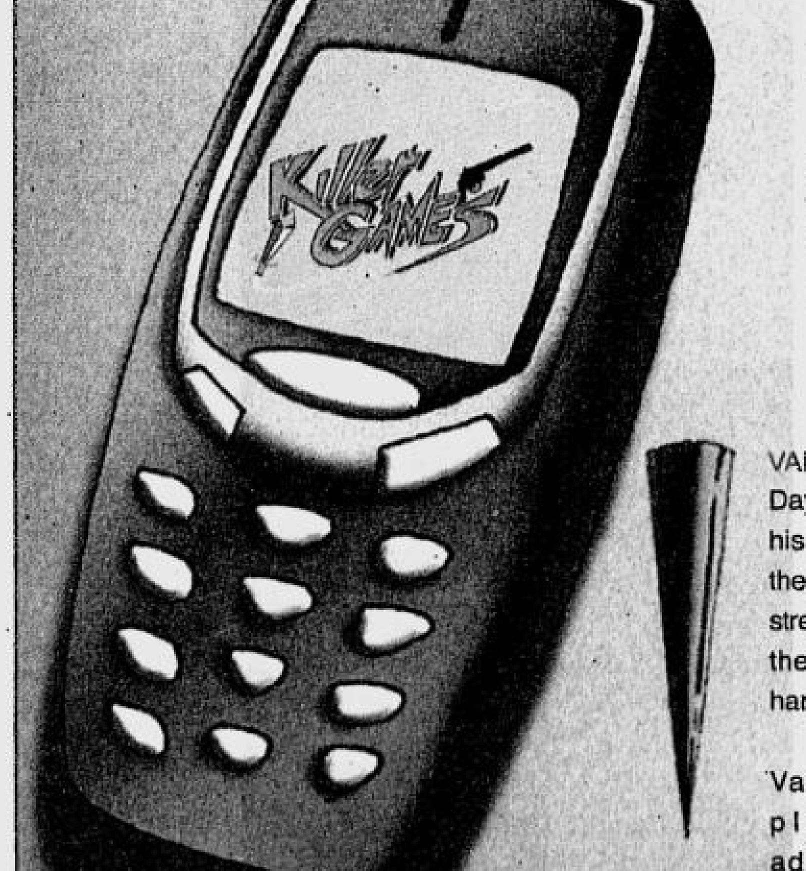
How to play Vampire Slayer:
VS PLAY — Type VS PLAY to play Vampire Slayer.
288 — Send to 288.
Accept the daily challenge. — Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

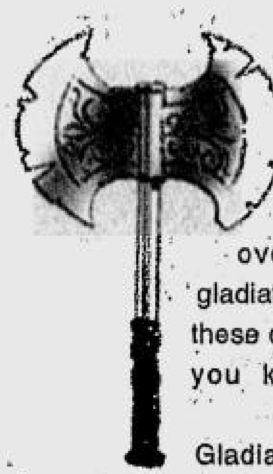
How to play Gladiator Wars:
GW PLAY — Type GW PLAY to play Gladiator Wars
288 — Send to 288.
Accept the daily challenge. — Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

How to play Dude Ranger:
DR PLAY — Type DR PLAY to play Dude Ranger.
288 — Send to 288.
Accept the daily challenge. — Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

Only P 2.50 per successful message sent.
For more instructions on how to play, type <game keyword> HELP and send to 288. Ex. VS HELP

SMART
Simply Amazing!





'Millionaire' remains a hit after one year on the tube

DE LEON. Excessively kind?

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

CONGRATULATIONS to "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?" for lasting a full year on the tube. The quiz show marked its first anniversary earlier this month with a special edition featuring contestants who were celebrating their birthday last Nov. 13.

New trend

Fact is, the show has done more than "last" on the TV screen. It has succeeded, triumphed—and even started a new trend for quiz and game shows that have resulted in the 10 or so programs with similar formats that we now see on local TV.

The trend has become so popular that some TV people and viewers worry that it's turned into a glut, saturating the market with the same, old thing, day in and day out.

It's impressive that the "Millionaire" show has managed to hold its own and consolidate its gains, despite the competition from so many new quiz or game programs. That shows how much of a viewing habit it has become for viewers, who like its combination of information, high stakes and occasional cliffhanger excitement.

It was not always so. When the program started telecasting, it was praised for its sets and lighting effects, but faulted on point of choice of questions; escalation of difficulty in the questions as the cash prizes increased; too many questions about computers and other high-tech stuff; other arcane questions that were simply too difficult to answer, and Christopher de Leon's strained, awkward hosting style.

Incorrect answers

A year later, much of the criticism and quibbles about the questions asked on the show have diminished—although, from time to time, regular viewers still complain about confusing or misleading questions, or downright incorrect answers.

Instructively, complaints about De Leon's performance as quizmaster have increased. He's no longer strained and awkward; in fact, he looks like he's enjoying himself *too much* on the show.

Some viewers (including this writer) feel that De Leon calls too much attention to himself, when the right focus of shows of this type should be on the contestants, rather than the quizmaster.

Perhaps some of this tendency can't be helped, since De Leon is a film-TV star in his own right and is used to being at the center of things.

But a quiz show is not a movie, so De Leon should subsume himself to the needs of the contestants, who must be encouraged to answer questions in the best possible way.

This is another area that De Leon is faulted on. We call it his tendency to be "excessively" kind to contestants. It's good that De Leon is a kind person, but his kindness sometimes backfires on the contestants, especially when they feel that the quizmaster is sending out subtle signals that their answer could be wrong.

This makes them insecure even if their answer is correct, and they sometimes change their answer or resort to their lifelines, thus unnecessarily depleting their store of these aids.

Signals

We stress that this isn't De Leon's "fault," it's the contestants' for reading those perceived or imagined signals wrongly. But the effect is the same: the contestant gets confused, finds himself in greater trouble, etc.

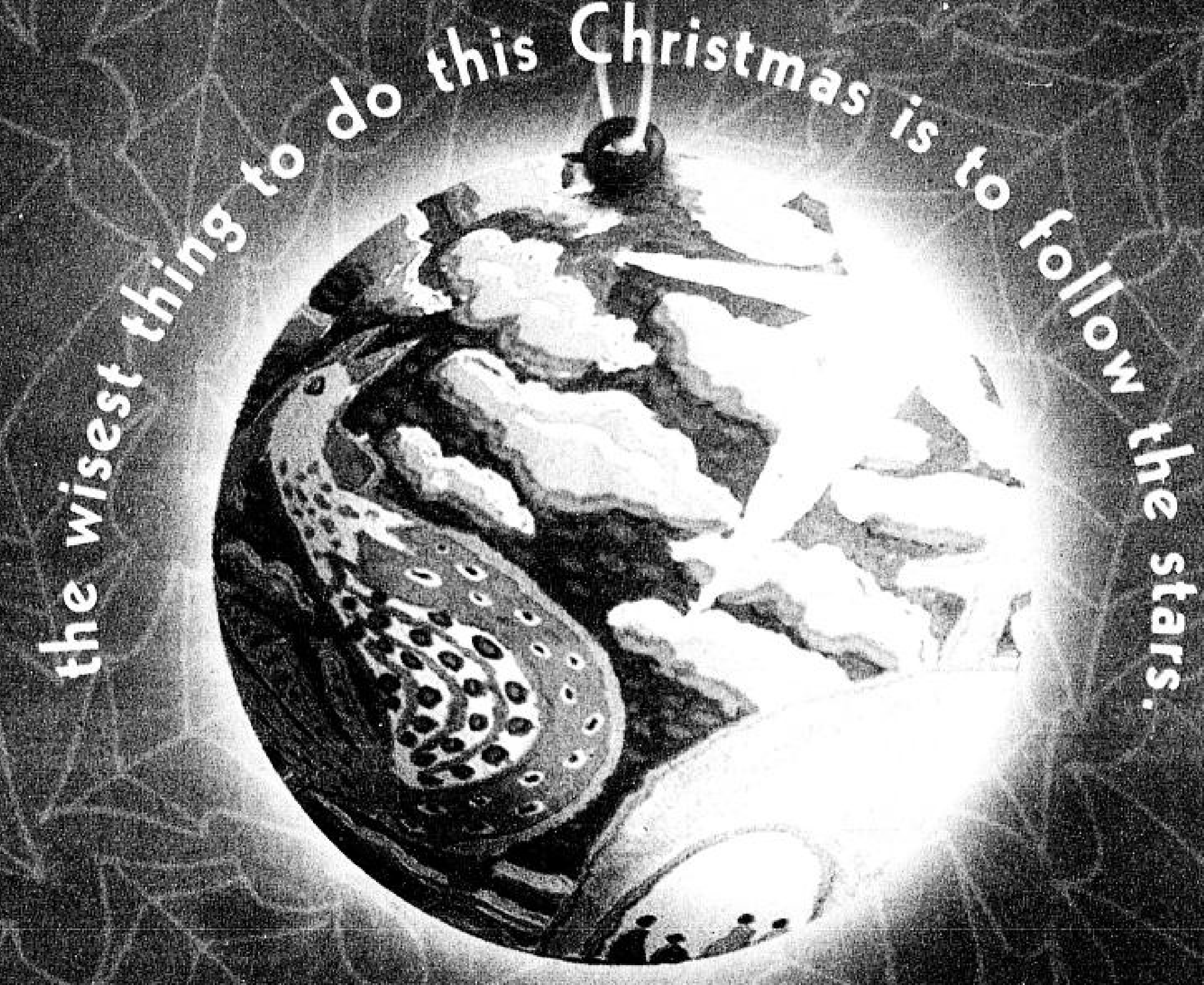
That's why we urge De Leon to conduct himself in a more objective and inscrutable manner, which is how "Millionaire" quizmasters in other countries perform in the various editions of the show we've seen on cable TV.

Never mind the kind, worried look, the dramatic pause, the shifting body language, etc. Just ask the question and wait for the answer; once it's given, immediately ask if it's the final answer, and, when the contestant says yes, reveal whether he's wrong or right.

No fun? Too cut-and-dried? Actually, De Leon is already doing precisely this—for the first, few questions with small cash prizes. It's only when the stakes go really high that he starts doing his kind, worried, *pa*-suspense dramatic bit.

Significant part

In any case, it can't be denied that De Leon is a significant part of the show's success—we certainly don't want to take that away from him. We're simply expressing our concern for how some contestants are getting confused instead of really helped on the show, a concern shared by quite a number of people who watch "Millionaire." We aren't inventing these minus points, so they should really be addressed.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& the cast of Rent Manila - Dec. 14
Vina Morales - Dec. 15
Zsa Zsa Padilla - Dec. 16
Kuh Ledesma & Isabella - Dec. 17
Gary Valenciano - Dec. 18
Ogie Alcasid - Dec. 19
Rachel Alejandro with Hajji Alejandro - Dec. 20
Cris Villonco & The Company - Dec. 21
Martin Nievera - Dec. 22

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Activity Center
Cris Villonco and Jeremiah - Nov. 24, 5pm
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Holiday Chorale Competition - Dec. 7, 8, & 9
Las Piñas Boys Choir - Dec. 8

Activity Center at 6pm
Christmas Chorale Carols
DLSU Pop Orchestra - Dec. 21
UP Concert Chorus - Dec. 22
Ateneo Glee Club - Dec. 23

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A Gift of Music

Activity Center
Jeremiah & Cris Villonco - Dec. 1, 5:30pm
Vernie Varga & Katrina - Dec. 7, 5:30pm
Huni & Five Seasons - Dec. 8, 6pm

Lagoon Area at 7pm
Maxine - Dec. 15
Manilyn Reynes - Dec. 16
Celebrity of Performing Arts - Dec. 17
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Saturday SPECIAL

51 countries join race for foreign film Oscars

LOS ANGELES—A record 51 countries have joined the race for next year's Oscar for best foreign film, the Academy for Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced on Monday.

In the largest ever crop of foreign pictures, countries such as Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania and Uruguay have for the first time submitted entries for the world's most prestigious entertainment awards.

Early favorite

France's entry, "Amelie," directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, has been tipped by many pundits as an early favorite to win next year's best foreign film award, while "Dark Blue World" by Czech director Jan Sverak has also been hailed.

Other possible hopefuls for the top cinematic trophy have been tipped as Bosnian entry "No Man's Land," Canada's "Atanarjuat," directed by Zacharias Kunuk and Italy's "The Son's Room" by Nani Moretti.

Mark Johnson, who produced "What Lies Beneath" and "Galaxy Quest," will head the Foreign Language Film Award Committee which will begin screening all entries on Nov. 28 before nominating five of them for the coveted Oscar.

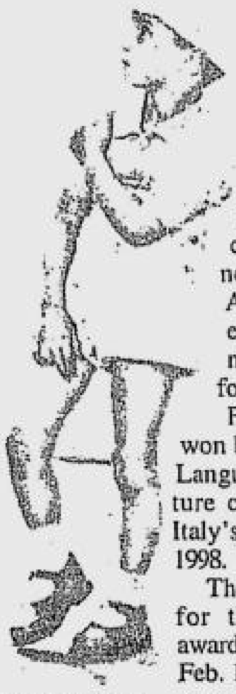
Other categories

Films submitted for the best foreign language category can also be eligible for nomination for other Academy Awards categories provided they meet the requirements for those categories.

Five foreign films have won both the Best Foreign Language and the Best Picture categories, including Italy's "Life is Beautiful" in 1998.

The Oscar nominations for the 2002 Academy awards will be announced on Feb. 12 and the Oscars ceremony will be held on March 24 in Los Angeles. *AFP*

"LIFE Is Beautiful" is one of five Best Foreign Language Film winners that have also copped the Best Picture Oscar.



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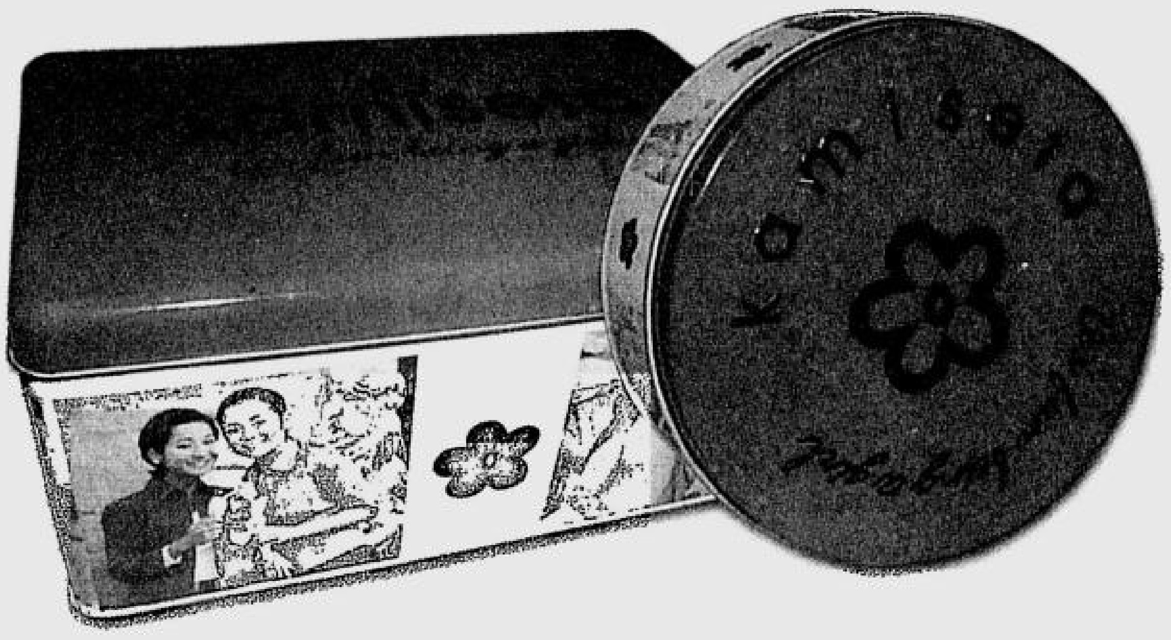

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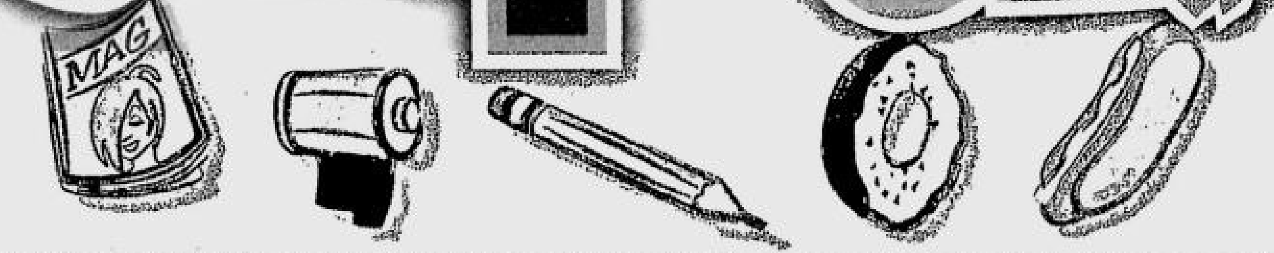


Brando plays a dealer in stolen goods in 'The Score'

Y HENRY CABOT BECK

F MOUS posed photograph from he 1950's shows Bob Hope an larlon Brando fighting over an O r statuette. What makes the pi are specially funny is that Brando, the man who taught America how to numble and glower, is doing most of the mugging.

Torn T-shirt

Clark Gable taught American men ow to dress without an undershirt in "It Happ J One Night." Brando taught them how to wear nothing but a T-shirt—and a torn one at that—in "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1951). Men may have wanted to be Gable or John Wayne or Gary Cooper before, but after "Streetcar" all any of them wanted was to be Brando.

Few people would have imagined back then that in his final decades, Marion Brando—the brooding, sullen, introspective actor who redefined male sexual presence in "Streetcar" and such subsequent films as "On the Waterfront," "One Eyed Jacks," "Viva Zapata!" and "The Fugitive Kind," would be mugging his way through a succession of oddball film roles on his tippytoes-like a dancing hippo from "Fantasia."

The beginning of this run of Brando lite, which adds the heist film "The Score,"can be dated back at least as far as Arthur Penn's 1976 "The Missouri Breaks" in which Brando played a hired killer in the Old west, tracking Jack Nicholson.

Despite the seriousness of the part, Brando played Robert E. Lee Clayton as a thorough eccentric given to disguises-including that of a bonnet-topped frontier woman.

Superman's father

In "Superman" (1978), Brando played Jor-El, the Man of Steel's scientist father on the planet Krypton. Brando, with a silver spit curl and wearing a reflective silver suit, delicately walked about as though he were modeling Liberace loungewear, speaking in a minced, supercilious British accent that he might have lifted from Claude Rains.

He followed that with "Apocalypse Now" (1979), reuniting with Francis Ford Coppola, his director seven years earlier on the "The Godfather."

In "Apocalypse," Brando was Col. Kurtz, a renegade, possibly mad supersoldier holed up in a cave in Cambodia, appearing mostly in the shadows as he mutters about the nature of horror.

From that point on, Brando went broader and weirder, playing a kind of South African Charles Laughton in "A Dry White Season" (1989), a parody of his Don Corleone in "The Freshman"(1990), Grand Inquisitor Torquemada in "Christopher Columbus: The Discovery" (1992) and a wonderfully good-natured psychiatrist in "Don Juan DeMarco" (1995), opposite Johnny Depp. After that, he played an absurdly dotty scientist in "The Island of Dr. Moreau" (1996), acting as though he had stumbled into a dinner theatre version of "The Night of the Iguana" on his way to a remake of "The Bank Dick."

BRANDO and De Niro prepare for the big score.

In 1998, Brando played "The Swede" in a film called "Free Money." Big as a house, bald and wearing a mustache, he chased after Charlie Sheen with a cattle prod and pounded Mira Sorvino on the head with a shoe. He was obviously delighted with himself.

Now, in "The Score," Brando is Max, a dealer in stolen goods who teams up with a retired crook and a young hotshot for the proverbial last big score. His co-stars are Robert De Niro and Edward Norton, two actors who'd be among the first to admit the Brando influence.

Caper movie

The picture is a tight, intense caper movie that wouldn't seem to allow much room for levity. Yet, Brando lightens nearly every scene he's in, however brief.

Says producer Gary Foster: "He's a child. He loves to have fun. He's a practical joker who's never lost that childlike quality. We never thought people would laugh, but they laugh because they're enjoying his fun. He's so charming."

The question remains: What happened to Brando in the mid-'70s to cause him to abandon the self-serious aspect of his acting? "I think with "Last Tango in Paris (1973), he emotionally drained himself," says Frank Oz. who directed "The Score."

Naked

"It took a lot out of him and he might have said, 'I don't ever want to be this naked again.'" It's certainly true that Brando's performance in Bernardo Bertolucci's film blurred the lines separating autobiography, acting and sheer, staggering soul purging. "He laid it out there," says Edward Norton, "his own hypocrisy, the side of himself that is vainglorious and the side of himself that hates the vaingloriousness.

"He stripped the last vestiges of facade or pretense defensiveness or of self-consciousness, and he really put himself up there as naked and self loathing and self-critical and self-exposed as you'll ever see.

"And I think he knew what he was doing when he did it, and he was done after that. He knew he had taken it about as far as he could, and he hung it up for love."

And yet, according to Bertolucci, "I finally met with Brando again, 20 years later. We talked all afternoon until it was dark, and I said to Marlon, 'I was very proud to have brought the real Marlon Brando in my movie not the Method actor, the star, but the man," and Marlon turns and he says to me, 'What makes you think that was me?'"

Restoring Christ to the heart of Christmas

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THE SINGING of "Silent Night" by young children who were practicing for their Christmas program so irritated one teacher that she had the number dropped from the program. Another group of people protested the display of the Nativity scene in a park and worked to have it removed. These two incidents, which happened in the United States, reflects the discomfort that materialistic people feel whenever they see people glorifying or worshipping the Supreme Being and His representatives.

Materialistic

As more people in this world become materialistic and atheistic, there will be an increasing number of attempts to discourage people from glorifying God. Already there is a movement in the United States to remove the mention of Jesus Christ's name from the celebration of Christmas. A friend of mine approached one lady activist last year and greeted her, "Merry Christmas!"

She retorted, "Happy Holidays."

He repeated, "Merry Christmas!"

Again, she insisted, "Happy Holidays." She didn't even want to say Christmas, to speak the name of Christ.

There are people who want to see Christmas simply as a vacation or holiday, rather than a holy day. There is a movement by businessmen, advertisers and atheists to turn it into a time for shopping, eating, drinking, partying and sense-enjoyment. People display the Christmas tree and bring out decorations of reindeer, snowmen, mistletoe, stockings and Santa Claus, but they would like to leave Jesus Christ out of the picture.

Material gratification

Are we going to naively go along with this movement? Are we also going to worship Santa Claus and teach our children to pray for all the material things that their hearts desire? Will we turn gift-giving into a game of obligation and requests for material gratification?

Will we sing songs about an imaginary Rudolph instead of celebrating the glories of Jesus Christ? It is sad to hear children shouting taunting remarks when they do not receive any money for their caroling. Are we singing to get something in return, or are we singing to give people the joy of Christmas?

When our hearts are free from any material motive, then we can be instruments of the lord. But when we seek material rewards, we cannot impart the message of Christ.

Propaganda

Be aware that there is a real movement to make us forget Jesus Christ. Let us not fall victim to this wave of materialistic propaganda. Christmas is meant to bring us closer to Jesus Christ and His beloved Father. Let us seriously analyze what we do every Christmas time and choose those acts that make us more humble and sincere servants of Jesus and the Father.

We hope that this early Christmas reminder will help us experience the true spirit of Christmas. Let us prepare for a truly blessed and joyful celebration of Jesus' appearance day. All glories to Jesus Christ and His beloved Father!

What makes 'Harry Potter' so popular?

BY NOELANI TORRE

"OH, no!" a friend of ours wailed when she saw us hefting the latest Harry Potter book, the 734-page "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." "Don't tell me you've jumped on the bandwagon, too," she moaned. Our friend was the anti-trend following type.

Sheepish grin

We say *was* because not long after that we saw her with her nose stuck in a book—"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." She dragged her gaze from its pages only long enough to give us a sheepish grin and a helpless shrug. Victim number 96,576,401 of Potteritis! At least she wasn't sporting a pointed hat and black robes—yet.

So what is it that we—children and adults alike—see in the "Harry Potter" series that we'd literally camp outside the doorsteps of bookstores so that we'd get the latest volume, a.s.a.p.? What's with this skinny boy with the unruly black hair and a pair of broken glasses that is so appealing?

For those who have no inkling of who and what we're talking about (visitors from Mars, maybe?), Harry Potter is the protagonist in the seven-part fantasy series by J.K. Rowling. Only books one to four have been published so far (the author produces one per year) and those we have now are "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," and "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

Young wizard

Harry is a young wizard with a very interesting past and with loads of traits and abilities that fully equip him for adventure—courage, daring, a tendency towards mischief-making, parseltongue (the ability to talk to snakes), and a talent for Quidditch (the sport of the Wizarding world).

Each of the four books chronicles a year of his stay at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (and other related adventures), beginning with the first year, where we first make the acquaintance of an orphaned 11-year-old boy whose downtrodden life will take a definite turn for the better when he discovers that he is a wizard, and a special one at that!

But let's go back to our question: What is so enthralling about Harry's story? According to Dr. Michelle H. Martin, a children's literature specialist, "A large part of Potter author J.K. Rowling's success comes from the fact that she has effectively combined three well-established genres of children's literature that have been around since the 19th century and before: folklore, the school story and fantasy."

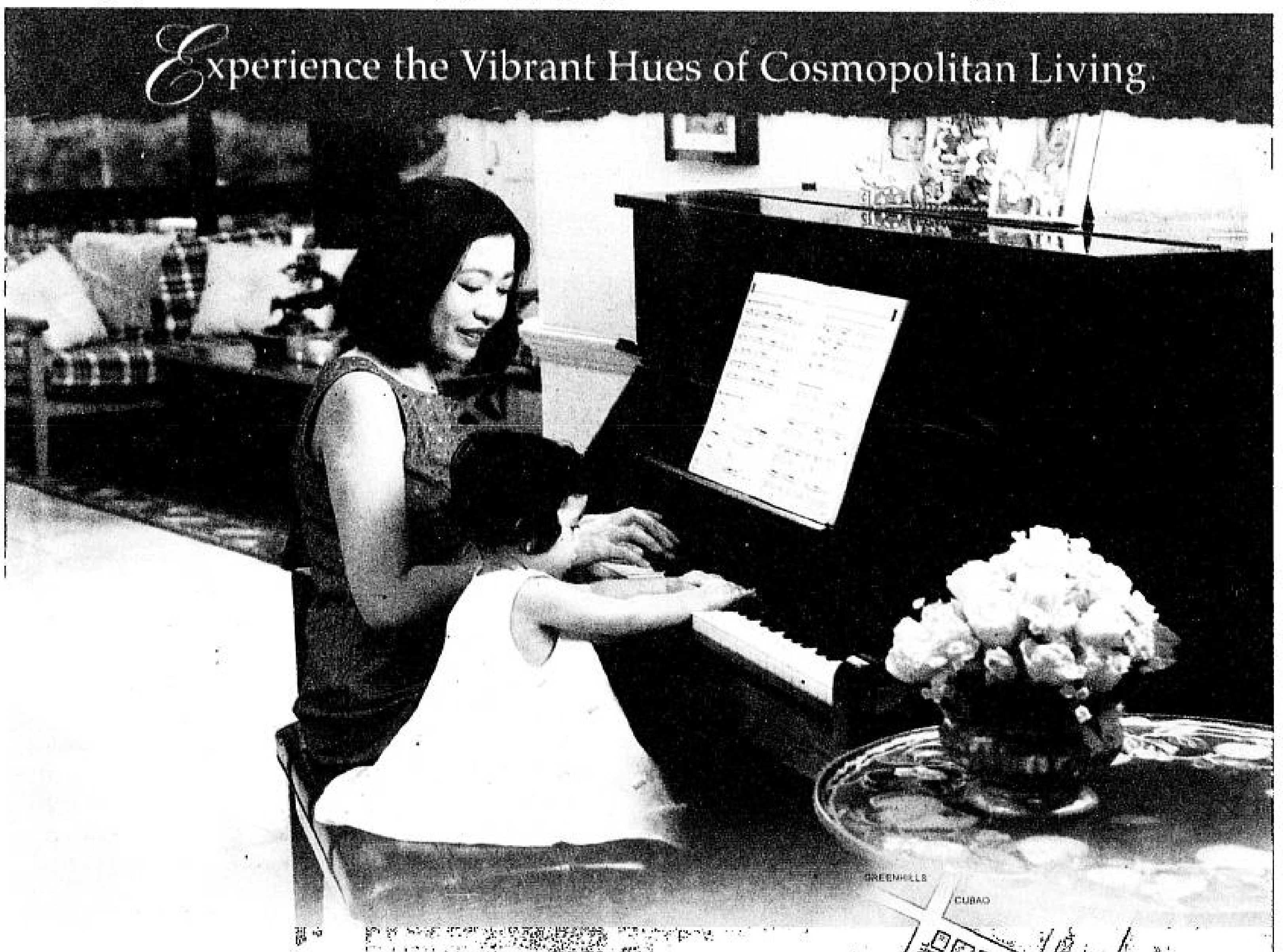
Nasty relatives

When one stops to think about it, "Harry Potter" is in fact another version of Cinderella. The tale of a kid who lives with nasty relatives who treat him like a servant and don't allow him to enjoy life is Harry's tale, or at least its beginning, *and* Cinderella's.

In the end, of course, the kid tri-

WHAT/pE3

"HARRY POTTER." Another version of Cinderella.



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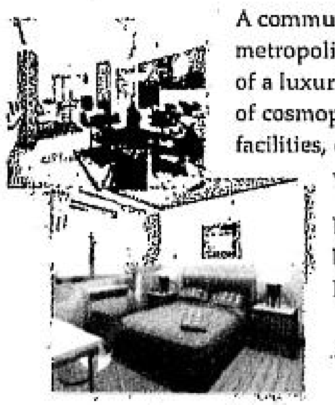

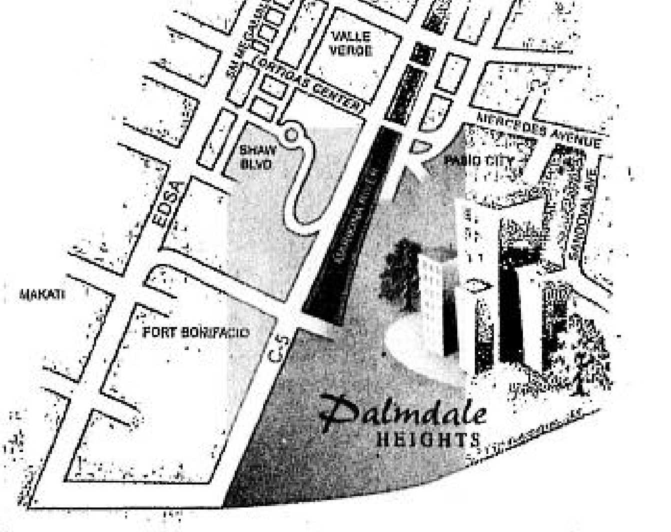

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FDFPI screenwriting tilt offers P70,000 top prize

By Nestor U. Torre

THE 2001 Screenwriting Contest sponsored by the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines promises to be one of the most interesting in years. The deadline for submission of entries is still on Dec. 14, but the FDFPI office has already been receiving scripts sent in by "early-bird" contestants.

Some editions of the screenwriting tilt have gotten over a hundred entries, and this year's contest could end up as one of its most popular and productive.

Fresh inputs

That's all to the good, since the Filipino film industry is in transition and needs fresh inputs from old and new writers, to revive the viewing public's interest in local movies.

The FDFPI contest is attractive to contestants because of its prizes—P70,000 for first place, P50,000 for second, P30,000 for third, and P10,000 each for seven honorable mentions.

In addition, the foundation helps writers sell their winning scripts to movie producers, thus enabling them to earn more, and making it easier for winning scripts to end up as films on the big screen (unlike many other good scripts that remain unproduced for years—or forever).

Another major incentive is the fact that many of the contest's judges are directors and producers, the top decision-makers in the industry. When they read a good script entered in the competition, they make a mental note of it, and after the winners are announced, they could option the script for production.

This has happened to past FDFPI contest winners that have ended up as finished films, like "Kriminal ng Barrio Concepcion" and "Ada;" scripts that have been bought by producers, like "Sentensiyado," "Pantasma," "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" and "Santa-Santita," and films currently in production, like "Nine Mornings."

New talents

All of these scripts were written by new talents, whose good showing in the FDFPI tilt has effectively fast-tracked their entry and progress in the local film industry, which is sometimes very hard for new writers to penetrate on their own.

Other contest winners have also been doing well in television, writing for a wide variety of drama and comedy shows, thanks to the boost that the FDFPI competition has given them.

If you want to break into TV-film scripting, the FDFPI screenwriting tilt could help you, too. It is open to all screenplay writers who are Filipino citizens. Together with their entries, participants should submit a one-page bio data and two current passport-sized photos.

Entries must not have won an award in any competition, and must be a new screenplay, not yet produced by any movie company.

Synopsis

Each participant can submit only one entry accompanied by a one-page synopsis. The screenplay must be written in Filipino, or in English with dialogue in Filipino.

Four copies must be submitted of each entry, on regular bond paper (8.5" x 11"), around 100 pages long. No real names, pen names or marks leading to the identity of the author should appear on the entry.

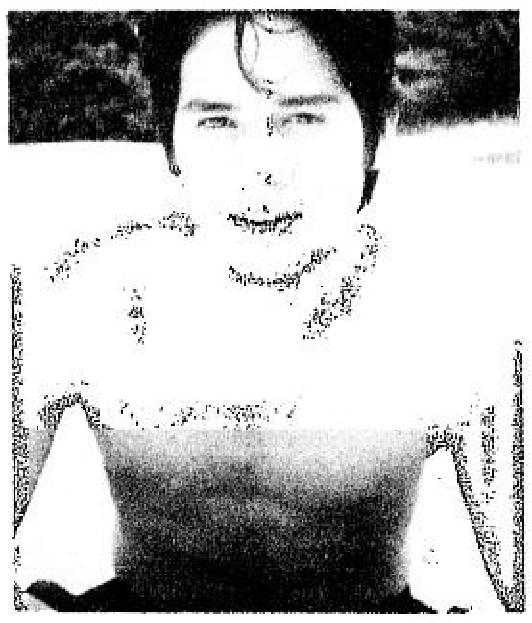
An affidavit attesting to the originality of the work should accompany the entry. There are no restrictions on theme and subject matter.

Deadline is on Dec. 14. The decision of the panel of judges is final and irrevocable.

Address your entries to the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines Inc., Film Program and Coordination Unit, 3/F Production Design Center bldg., CCP Complex, Roxas blvd., Pasay City, Manila.

For more details call the FDFPI office at tel. no 551-4677. Lots of luck!

> A major incentive is the fact that the contest's judges are directors and producers, the top decision-makers in the industry



PIOLO Pascual is starring in "Nine Mornings," a film based on an FDFPI contest winner.

What makes 'Harry Potter' so popular?

(From page E2)

umphs over evil and those who once oppressed him, and this for us is a familiar and universal theme. As one avid Potter reader told us, it "uplifted" her and gave her "hope" which she said she needed to stave off "depressing reality."

Natural gift

But the reason most readers, young and old, give for loving "Harry Potter" so much is Harry Potter himself. Harry is special, we want to *be* Harry. We want to be "the chosen one," "the boy who lived," with his natural gift for magic and Quidditch, his fame, his friends who take him under their wing, his inherited riches, and his opportunities for changing things, making a difference and fighting evil. We don't want to be Muggles!

Harry's world is clear-cut, we can see the boundaries. The division between good and evil is well defined, and there are no shades of gray, only black and white. The characters are types—the best-friend, the "rat-faced" enemy, the class know-it-all, the teacher with a grudge, the wise and benevolent headmaster.

Even their names are labels—can anybody named Draco Malfoy be anything else but bad? Severus Snape is as slimy and as snappy as his appellation. Harry's godfather, who can turn himself into a big, black dog, is called Sirius Black. Sirius means dog in Latin. And so it goes.

> Although the bare bones of Rowling's stories are old, their flesh and clothing are definitely the new products of her amazingly vivid imagination

New life

These are not, however, "an endless string of cliches," as literary critic Harry Bloom called them, because though they may be based on types, Rowling has breathed new life into them. They are not hollow characters with paper-thin skins. They have personalities and quirks that range from the usual to the magically bizarre.

Although the bare bones of Rowling's stories are old, their flesh and clothing are definitely the new products of her amazingly vivid imagination. Where else would we read about a game that's a cross between basketball and soccer played 50 feet above the ground on broomsticks that seem capable of breaking the sound barrier?

Where else would we learn such delicious new words as "muggles," and "apparating," and "Quidditch?" Where else would we find Diagon Alley, where dragon's liver is sold at 17 sickles a pound?

Adventures

This is a fantasy story set in a world that bears a resemblance to ours but is definitely more exciting. During the hours that we are held in its spell, we learn transfiguration spells, charms, and potions; we embark on adventures we wouldn't even think of outside the pages of the books.

And we are brought back to the security of our childhood when we knew who the bad guys were and that they could be defeated if one was strong enough—this last, perhaps, is the greatest pull that Harry Potter's world exerts on us!

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South Border and Freestyle continue to assert their musical supremacy

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

ASK anyone who's in tune with the current music scene to name his top three bands and for sure, Freestyle and South Border will make it to the list.

Consistent progrss

Since their successful entry into the circuit, both bands have not only shown consistent progress in terms of the quality of music they have produced, but have also elevated their entertainment value to an estimable level.

And both bands take pride in telling everyone that they are from Davao, where beautiful music seem to flow naturally. South Border specializes in pop/R&B, while Freestyle is an all-out pop and pop band.

Both have regularly produced certified hits. South Border is credited with "Kahit Kailan," "Love of My Life," and their most recent chartbuster "Habang Atin ang Gabi," the theme music for Chito Roño's "La Vida Rosa."

Remake

On the other hand, Freestyle's remake of the Ogie Alcasid heartbreak song "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" has made them a quadruple platinum group, a milestone improvement on their first hit, "Before I Let You Go."

Recently, there has been an effort to pit the two bands against each other, with some die-hard fanatics sometimes fighting about who's truly better than whom.

Jay Durias, keyboardist of South Border, told us in a recent interview that competition is healthy—"as long as people do not go overboard, heads do not swell, and there is no conscious attempt to be nasty in creating false truths and intrigue."

Jinky Vidal, the lone female member and lead vocalist of Freestyle, agrees with Durias: "There should be no room for envy, and we should support each other all the more since both groups are from Davao, and we all know how hard the climb was for us and for them, too, to be able to make it in Manila."

On the recording front, South Border has just released its latest CD, "The Way We Do," under Sony Music. Lead vocalist Luke Mejares sounds a lot more mature here.

In sync

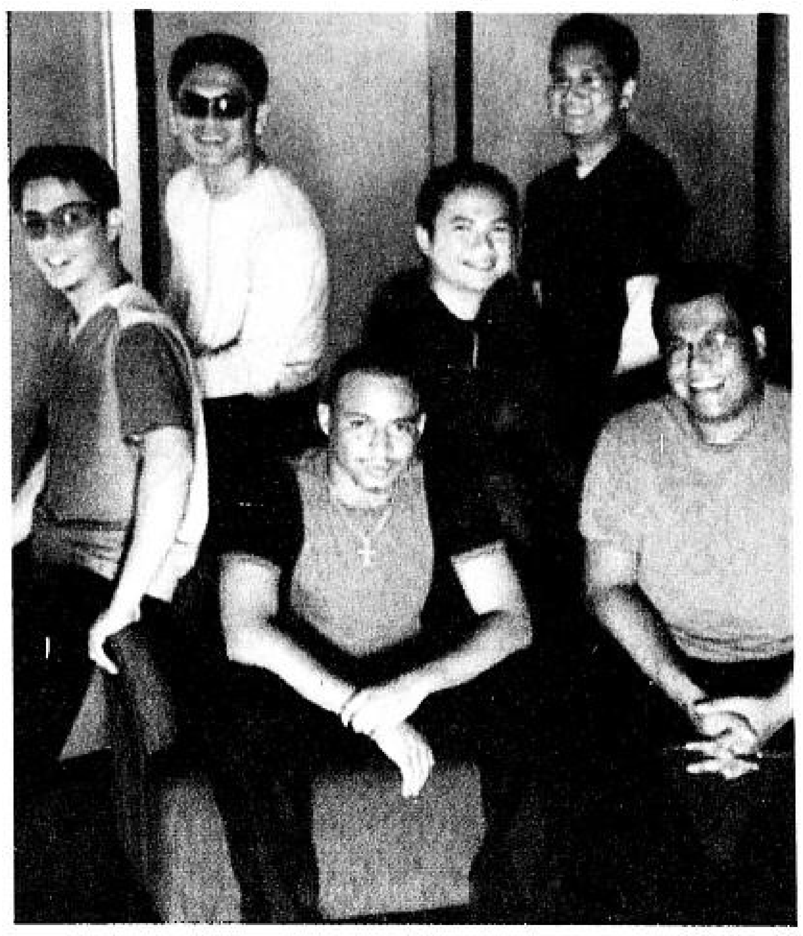
Two years of playing music together have gotten Durias, Mejares, drummer Paul Benitez, saxophonist Rick Junasa, bassist Tata Balane and guitarist Butch Victoriano more in sync with each other and this new album is a strong testament to South Border's growth as a band.

Meanwhile, Freestyle, with Gerald Banzon, Carlo Tapia, brothers Tat and Top Suzara completing the line-up, is in the initial stages of brainstorming for their next album project, for which they promise to create the kind of songs they've always wanted to sing.

Tonight, Freestyle is slated to perform at the Big Dome with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. For the first time, the group will attempt to fuse contemporary pop music with the symphonic rhythm of an 85-piece ensemble under the baton of Prof. Rodel Colmenar. Billed as "Symphony in Freestyle," the concert will also feature Bituin Escalante and Anna Fegi.

This coming Friday (Nov. 30), it's South Border's turn to stage what they call "our biggest concert ever" at the Ultra in Pasig City. The open-air show will aim to accommodate 35,000 patrons and will feature the modern special effects and state-of-the-art computer effects.

FREESTYLE. There should be no room for envy.


SOUTH BORDER. Competition is healthy.

Harry Potter film invitation to join occult?

BY SARAH TIPPIT

LOS ANGELES—Flying motorcycles and lightning bolts and dragon eggs and phoenix feathers may be keeping some people out of moviehouses this weekend.

Magic wand

Not everyone likes bubble, bubble, toil and trouble and they wish they could swing a magic wand and make the new kid flick "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" disappear like magic.

Early estimates indicate the much-awaited film based on literature's most famous boy wizard has been breaking box office records on both sides of the Atlantic. By most accounts the movie, based on stories by J.K. Rowling, is a healthy fantasy about good versus evil that could prompt meaningful discussions between children and their parents.

While the film has also prompted criticism among some witches for improperly depicting correct broomstick riding technique (bristles must be pointed forward not backward) real life believers in paganism and witchcraft are pleased with the film's positive depiction of witches and believe it could raise their much-maligned profile.

Criticism

But the film is also prompting criticism, especially in some conservative Christian circles, which believe the tale of a young boy's exploits at the Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft might lure children into the occult world.

On Friday last week, a middle school in Fargo, North Dakota, canceled a field trip to see the film after parents complained about the movie's depiction of witchcraft. In Memphis, Tennessee, at least two Catholic schools said they were keeping the series of Harry Potter books off shelves because of their witchcraft content.

There have even been reports

HARRY/p.E5

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Philippine Foundation for Vaccination and Immunization helps both children and adults

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

LANI Mercado, wife of action star Bong Revilla and a mother of six children, was a speaker at the 2nd Philippine National Immunization Conference sponsored by the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination headed by Lulu C. Bravo, MD in cooperation with the Philippine Medical Association.

The PFV immunization targets are children and adults against BCG, DPT/Td, OPV/ IPV, Measles, MMR, Hemophilus influenza b, Varicella, Hepatitis A and Typhoid—optional. Recommended immunizations for adults (20 years and above) are Td, MMR, Hepatitis B and Varicella, while recommended immunizations for the elderly (60 years) are Influenza and Pneumococcal vaccine.

Prevention

Vaccination is one method of prevention. Schools, colleges, and universities' authorities should be involved in the improvement of the health of Filipino children. The Department of Health, through its health centers scattered all over the country, gives free vaccinations to babies and adults. Mothers only have to bring their babies to the health center for their regular injections.

A mother's understanding about childhood immunization is crucial in the implementation of the vaccination programs.

According to the chart, only 80 percent of babies are given anti-measles vaccine. After babies receive regular vaccines at nine months of age, mothers ignore bringing them to health centers for anti-measles vaccine.

Male children who got sick of measles may have had the virus incubate in their bodies, later to attack their nervous system, resulting in subacute sclerosing pancephalitis (SSPE or the late complications of measles), a fatal disease.

Bedridden

The child becomes bedridden, loses the power of speech, and is almost a vegetable in a matter of months unless given expensive palliative medicines. The boy's quality of life disintegrates.

SSPE is my area of interest, and it prompted me to attend the session on measles at the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination and Immunization Conference. Belinda O. Cunanan and I are finalizing the SSPE Children Care Foundation to prevent the fatal SSPE disease by giving anti-measle vaccine to babies nine to 12 months old, and booster shots at age four to five.

Even pregnant women should receive vaccines when it is unlikely to cause harm, the risk for disease exposure is high, and the infection poses a risk to mother or fetus. Mothers should take booster shots three months before becoming pregnant.

When Lani asked her mother whether she was given vaccines against measles, polio, DPT, tetanus, and VCG shots, her mother honestly answered that she could not remember because, as a child, Lani had mumps, measles and chicken pox. But she remembered crying everytime she was given an injection as a child.

Lani is proud that all her six children were given BCG, HEPA B, DPT, OPV/IPV, HiB, Measles, Varicella, MMR and Hepa A, up to the booster doses of the needed vaccines, and feels lucky that she has a brother who's a pediatrician.

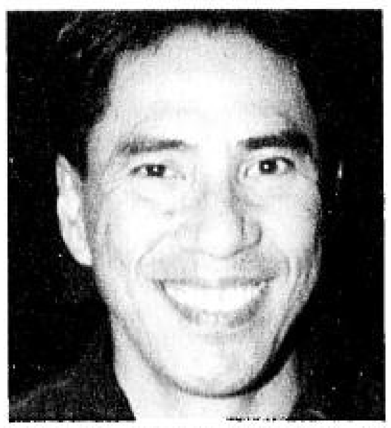
Need

The Department of Health headed by Dr. Manuel Dayrit now gives free vaccinations, so the less fortunate has no reason not to have their children vaccinated. Every mother, rich or poor, must understand and accept the need for childhood immunization.

Lani exhorts the government to double its efforts to ensure the success of its various free health services, which should be brought right to the doorsteps of Filipino homes. "A sick people reflects a sick government. The government must exert its fullest for a healthy constituency—ensuring a healthy society," says Lani, who is available as a speaker to promote childhood immunization.

E-mail author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph

MERCADO. Available as a speaker to promote childhood immunization.


DAYRIT. The Department of Health now gives free vaccinations.

‘Novocaine’ is dentists’ kind of movie

By Douglas J. Rowe

NEW YORK—Three out of three dentists agree: They recommend David Atkins' "Novocaine."

Biased survey

It's a biased survey, though. The trio polled consists of the first-time director's father and two older brothers. They also were the film's medical consultants.

Atkins said he feared there would not be such unanimity when he showed his noirish comedy, which stars Steve Martin as a dentist, to other dentists.

"It's not like everything he (Martin) does is classically sympathetic. He makes some very human but not necessarily morally correct decisions," Atkins said between bites of salmon at lunch in New York.

But just like undertakers who are pleased by the rare focus on their business in the US HBO cable TV network's "Six Feet Under," dentists "like to be represented," the 39-year-old filmmaker said.

"They don't see themselves in the movies the way detectives do, or astronauts," he said, chuckling.

In "Novocaine," they see Martin play a fellow professional whose well-ordered life is upset by a drug-scamming patient (Helena Bonham Carter). When he asks her whether she typically targets doctors, she says dentists are easier marks—they're dumber.

> Steve Martin portrays a dentist whose well-ordered life is upset by a drug-scamming patient played by Helena Bonham Carter

"This is his revenge . . . Look what he did to us!" kids Atkins' 44-year-old brother, John, who shares offices with 47-year-old Benjamin and their father, George, in the suburbs west of Boston.

Amid good-natured ribbing in a conference call from their offices, the dentists make it clear they don't think David made a mistake choosing movies over mandibles.

Master's degree

He graduated from Columbia University with a master's degree in directing/screenwriting in 1991 and wrote "Arizona Dream" for his thesis project. (The little-seen film starred Johnny Depp, Jerry Lewis, Faye Dunaway, Lili Taylor and Vincent Gallo.) He then headed to Hollywood to work on screenplays, mainly for Luc Besson and Oliver Stone. Nothing got produced, however, and by '97 he found himself writing in the spare room of the family dental offices—and doing a little undercover research.

For Atkins, the nexus between dentistry and film dates back to the early '70s when his father brought home a professional journal with an article about "The Godfather," Atkins' all-time favorite movie. Besides Brando's now legendary swollen cheek look, prosthetics were responsible for Al Pacino's broken-jaw look, the article said; and James Caan had his incisors sharpened and elongated to make him appear more violent and carnivorous as the hot-tempered, mercurial Sonny.

Intrigued

In "Novocaine," Martin's dentist becomes intrigued by Bonham Carter's character, who has flawed teeth, whereas his fiancee (and dental assistant, played by Laura Dern) has perfect teeth.

Atkins also finds symbolism in X-rays, indicating that while the surface looks fine, there's rot underneath.

Besides writing and directing, Atkins plays the drums on a couple of songs in the film with his band, Penny. (His one-year-old son is named Luke Ringo, partly in honor of Ringo Starr.)

Atkins' family notes that his movie is one of the few that depicts their profession. The list is about as thin as floss, including "The In-Laws," "Compromising Positions," "Little Shop of Horrors," which co-starred Martin, "Cactus Flower" and "Strawberry Blonde" with James Cagney.

The Atkins family patriarch, George, is old enough to remember that the guy who stole Cagney's girlfriend comes in as a patient "and this is where Cagney really gets his revenge."

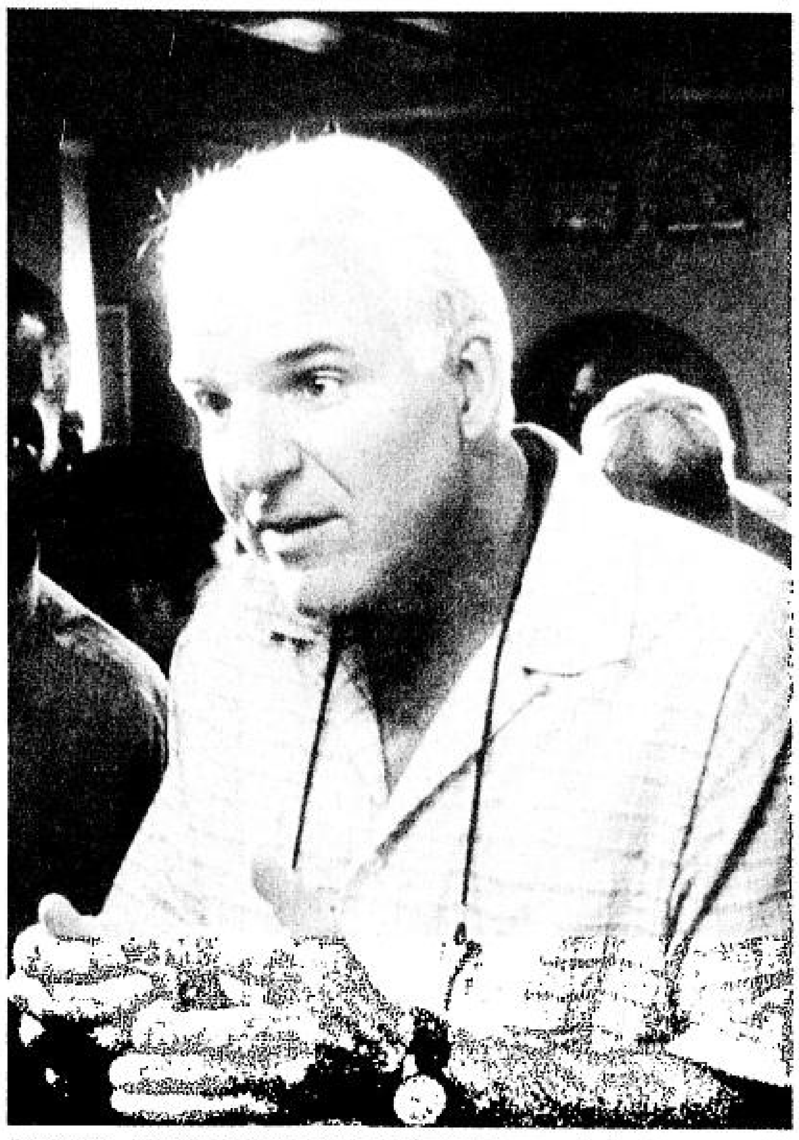
And, of course, there's "Marathon Man," with Laurence Olivier's Nazi war criminal Szell mysteriously asking: "Is it safe?"

For years, patients would ask the Atkinses if they had seen it.

"And after awhile you just told them, 'Yeah, about 400 times!'" Benjamin said.

And would the dentists in turn ask: Is it safe?

"In German," John joked. *AP*



MARTIN. His character makes some very human but not necessarily morally correct decisions.

Harry Potter film invitation to join occult?

(From page E4)

of church groups burning Harry Potter books.

Some ministers are asking parents to shield young children from the movie, which contains battle scenes and other violence, and urging them to decide for themselves whether to expose their older children to the film's supernatural elements.

"There's something wonderful about childhood fantasy and that's something you really don't want to take away from children, but at the same time when witchcraft is put in a favorable light, that's of concern," the Rev. David Anderson, rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Newport Beach, California, said, adding:

"That's because witchcraft is alive today in North America and it's a very sinister force. That sends a confusing message to children as they grow older."

Lindy Beam, a youth culture analyst for the Christian-oriented Focus on the Family website, (http://www.family.org), warned that the movie may also subtly erode moral values. The Harry Potter character often lies, cheats or breaks rules in order to save the day.

Evangelists

But since the Bible also tells Christians they must engage the culture, sometimes on its terms so people can understand the message of Jesus Christ, some evangelists believe Harry Potter may be a powerful evangelism tool.

"Obviously it's tapping into universal themes such as the realities of good versus evil . . . what is true and what is not true . . . and that's what the Gospel is about," said the Rev. Martyn Minns of Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax, Virginia.

"For me it gives the Christian community a tremendous opportunity to talk to kids about things that really matter," Minns said. "The film reflects a tremendous spiritual hunger in the culture . . . We don't need to be afraid of imagination."

Connie Neal, a California-based former youth pastor who wrote the book "What's A Christian To Do With Harry Potter?" said people should not be afraid of the movie and that she has shared the Harry Potter books with her own children as a way to teach them right from wrong and how to tell the difference.

"We have freedom in Christ to interpret literature, even literature that deals with pagan sources," Neal said.

Meanwhile real life witches have praised the Harry Potter stories as painting their practices in a good light and raising their oft-maligned profile.

British humor

Ruth Shelton, 43, of New York, has been a practicing witch for 27 years. She first read "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" while fixing her 13-year-old son Evan's computer and loved its literary style and British humor.

She said some members of her coven, which meets "for circle" about three times a month, have bought advance tickets.

However she balks when asked if Harry Potter's world of Hogwarts bears any similarities to her own. "(Witches) don't have quite the same array of fantasy characters or live in a world completely apart from the mundane world," she said.

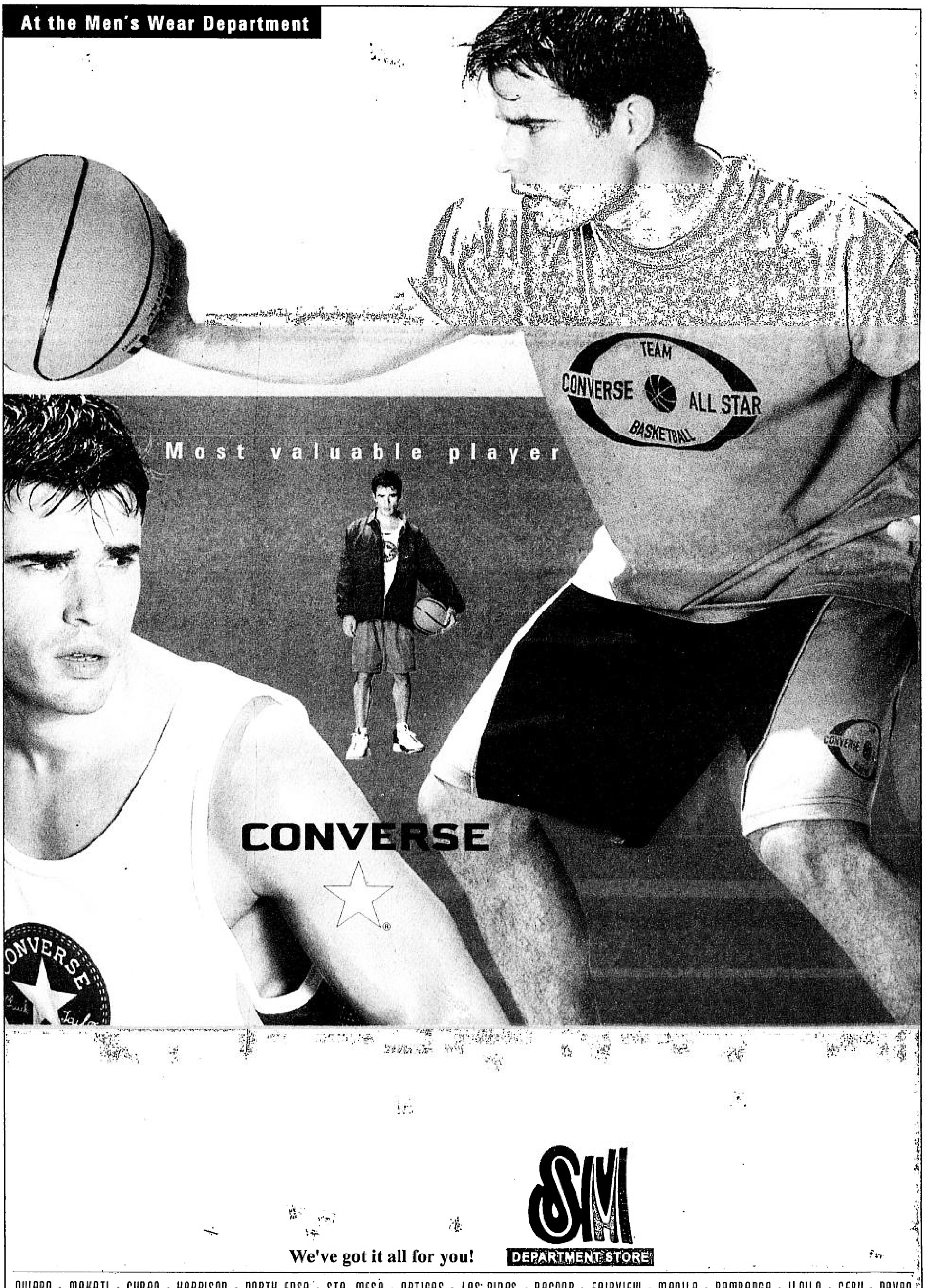
But are they realistic?

"She has treated all of the fantasy realm and the magic she works with with the utmost respect," Shelton said.

Shelton is also curious about Rowling's own practice and says that members of her coven think that the books "can open people up to alternative practices that have rich lore, history and morality."

"We are all happy with the entire phenomenon." *Reuters*

At the Men's Wear Department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Sharon, Robin reunite in Viva's 'Pagdating ng Panahon'

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

MANY are calling it the team-up that can't miss, referring to the reunion of Sharon Cuneta and Robin Padilla in the new film, "Pagdating ng Panahon." Their two previous outings, "Maging Sino Ka Man" in 1991 and "Di Na Natuto" in 1993 did very well at the box office so when Viva was deciding on a project for its 20th anniversary offering, there was no doubt that it would involve Sharon and Robin.

Chemistry

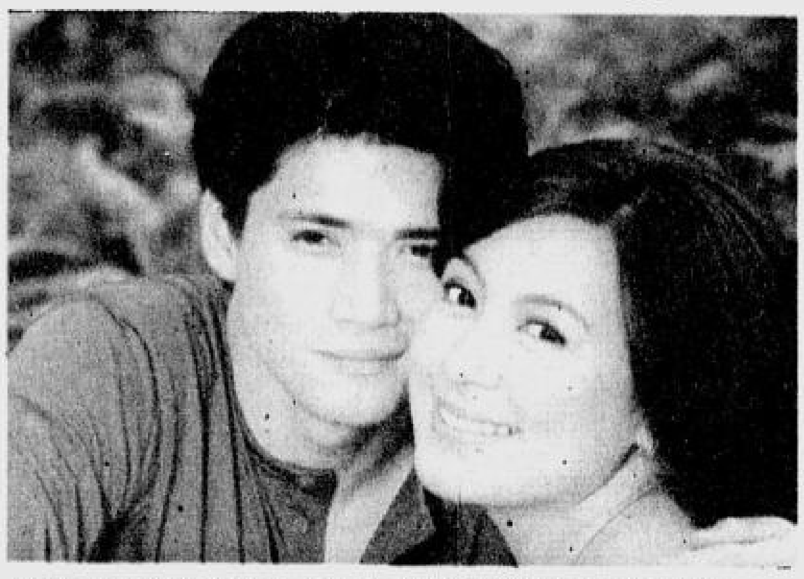
So many things have happened to the pair in the last eight years—the Megastar got married again and had another child, the "Bad Boy" went to jail—but when the two started shooting their movie, the chemistry was still there. They just continued where they left off and acted like the eight years had never happened.

Of course, there were noticeable changes. When the two were shooting "Di Na Natuto," Robin was a drug addict and would always be late for the shoot. He even courted her when he was already committed to Liezl Sicangco. At the press con for "Pagdating ng Panahon," Sharon acknowledged the changes in Robin's professional behavior. He would be on the set ahead of schedule, even earlier than Sharon.

Other changes had to do with their kissing scenes: In the '90s, the Megastar would ask that their screen kiss be faked. This time, Robin convinced Sharon that the scene called for him to give her a hard kiss on the lips because her character had spread the word that Robin was gay. Besides, he reasoned that they are now mature. Why, they even got married to different partners! She eventually agreed.

This is the second movie in recent memory where Robin doesn't engage in fisticuffs or handles guns. He jokes that unlike before, his current movies involve putting on a lot of makeup and dabbing large amounts of gel on his air. He even gets to sing a duet with his leading ladies (Regine and Sharon). Both his team-ups have been feel-good movies where differences are ironed out by dialogue. Robin had to beg director Joyce Bernal to give him a short fight scene so his fans won't forget that he is an action star.

Violence



PADILLA AND CUNETA. The chemistry is still there after eight years.

To satisfy his appetite for action, Robin himself wrote a script with a lot of violence and hard action, the kind of movies identified with him. It deals with life behind bars, and what better person to write such a story than Robin himself, who knows what it's like to be incarcerated. He offered the script to Viva which promptly put it in their film schedule early next year, with Robin's mentor, Deo Fajardo, directing.

Because he is on temporary release, Robin still reports to his parole officer twice a month to give an update on his activities. He is not allowed to go to bars, get drunk or associate with known felons. He also has to be on his best behavior.

This was severely tested while they were shooting "Pagdating," when some unruly spectators heckled Robin and Sharon while they were doing a pictorial. The old Robin would have picked a fight with the hecklers, but he knew that he would get into trouble with his parole officer.

Robin is expected to get his release papers by the year 2003. So we kidded him that by then he can start punching his enemies again. The actor replied that revenge was no longer part of his future plans.

Strict diet

Sharon, meanwhile, had to go on a strict diet so that she could be a believable romantic interest again. She said she had gained 70 pounds during her pregnancy. Once she got word that her movie with Robin was pushing through, she started her program.

By the time they started shooting, she still had not trimmed down to her ideal weight. However, it went well with the storyline, since she's supposed to undergo a transformation from being a plain Jane to a stunning woman.

And stunning was what she looked like when she faced the press recently to promote the movie. She said she had already lost 60 pounds and had 10 pounds more to go.

The other new thing about Sharon is that she's now a senator's wife but she doesn't seem to relish the thought of attending senate sessions and making *chika* with the people there.

That's ironic since her late dad was a politician, but that didn't seem to rub off on her. She says show business is still her world and that's where she's most comfortable. Of course, she's proud of her husband Francis for finally asserting her own identity as a senator of the republic and not being known simply as the Megastar's husband.

Family concerns

Aside from show biz, she is most comfortable being with her family, to whom she is not a megastar but simply a mother and a wife. She is happy that daughter KC is leading a relatively normal life in contrast to her rather intense life as a singer and movie star, then wife and mother during her teens.

Sharon wants KC to finish schooling like everyone else (of course, not everyone goes to school in Europe, where Sharon wants her daughter to study). They've had to turn down so many offers for K.C. to do commercials. More so when she decided to do "Little Mermaid."

Sharon shares that her daughter seems to prefer theater to the world of movies and television and this is just fine for her since it means less pressure on her daughter.

Sharon is looking forward to doing more movies now that she's no longer pleasingly plump!

New dining experience

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VISITS to my father in his farm bring me to Lipa, Batangas. I have seen how that place has blossomed into one of the richest provinces in the Philippines. The weather is clean and wonderful, it is close to Manila and many fast food chains can be found there.

Other choice

One morning, I wanted to have lunch away from the farm. My sister Stella, who was visiting from Vancouver, Canada, wanted to try the "House That Fried Chicken Built," Max's. I love Max's but that day, I wanted to explore. The other choice was Three Kids, the *panciteria* that serves the most delicious Pancit Lang lang. I had tried that many times before, so we went to one of my dad's suggestions, a place called Lipa Grill.

The bright and cool day almost went to waste because the place was air conditioned. We took a break from the fresh air, but it was nice and comfortable inside. Food is simply Pinoy but I thought, "There are two ways of preparing any kind of food. *Masarap* and hmmmmm, *pwede na*."

We ordered *sinigang na maliputo,* deep-fried and battered coated *bangus*, *gulay sa gata* with shrimps, Chami and rice. Everything looked good but ordinary.

But I noticed one thing that made a great, big impression on me: there were many side dishes that went with the items we ordered. There were *suka* and *bawang, atchara* and delicious "bagoong Balayan." I knew we had made the right choice.

Exceptionally good

The *bangus* was perfectly done and went well with the Balayan (boneless would be even better). The *gulay sa gata* was exceptionally good. You could tell, with the abundance of coconuts in Lipa, that the *gata* was freshly grated. Big difference!

The Chami is a *pancit* dish not very familiar to many. It is made from flat noodles and cooked almost like *canton,* but this version was really good.

The *sinigang* was good but what made it really different was the fish. *Maliputo* is only found in Batangas (as far as I know) and is one of the most delicious fish one can find in the world.

I loved the side dishes. A slice of *bangus* with bagoong balayan, *sitaw* with gata and a spoon full of rice, then I would dip my spoon in the *sinigang* and sip on that deliciously sour soup! I focused on the head and had that with a small slice of *sili,* soup soaked in hot rice.

The *gulay* was perfect with the finely-made bagoong. *Sarap talaga!* The atchara was great with the bangus, too.

My appetizer was the Chami—I loved it. As a whole, it was great new and delicious experience. I would have loved to see a *lechon manok* or *liempo* of Andok's on the menu. The place is owned by Sandy Javier of Andok's fame, a food lover himself. Knowing this makes you wonder no more why a place such as this exists in the province.

Other reasons

There are other reasons why I visit Lipa. These days, the weather is just superb. It could be very sunny but the air is cool. You inhale 100 percent oxygen and take in the freshest ingredients. Check it out!

Lipa Grill: Going to Lipa from Manila, go to the town proper, pass McDo, Jollibee and Mercury Drug. As soon as you see Mercury, turn left, that's Torres st. It'll be on your right side. Also, at the corner of Torres and Kalipukako, you will find the best *pandesal* in the Philippines (you may contest this, but prove it, send me a sample). Problem is, you have to go at 5 a.m.—*mabilis maubos!* Check them out, too!

Happy Eating!

sandydaza@hotmail.com

Award-winning movies at Cinemanila filmfest

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

THE 2001 Cinemanila International Film festival is screening some award-winning movies from different countries. From the United States comes "Disoriented," a film by Fil-Am director Francisco Aliwalas that won the Jean Renoir Storytelling Award at the Huntington filmfest in New York.

Comedy

"Disoriented," one of the first movies about Filipino-Americans, is a comedy focusing on a young Asian-American boy coming of age, and his confused family coming to grips with family pressure, racial stereotypes, and their American Dreams.

Next, "Roads and Bridges" by Abraham Lim (USA) won the Grand Jury Prize for best feature at the 2001 Toronto ReelWorld Film Festival.

In the film, we meet two men out of sync with their surroundings, haunted by ghosts from the past. Lyndon Johnson Lee, a young Asian, is arrested for dodging freight trains and is sentenced to work on a road crew in Kansas.

There he meets Daryl Logan, the only black man on the crew. Shunned by his co-workers, Daryl waits endlessly for a promotion that never comes.

Lyndon and Daryl's paths are put on a collision course, and their only chance for survival is to diverge from their destructive paths and find a new one together.

From Slovenia comes "Divided We Fall," cited as the most popular film at the 2000 Vancouver filmfest. It also won as Best Picture in the 2001 Czech Film and Television Academy Awards.

The film is set in a small Czech town occupied by German forces towards the end of the Second World War. Based on a true story, this black comedy is full of unexpected twists.

It's a movie about heroes, decent people and traitors, about the thirst for life as well as apathetic passivity. Heroism and collaboration, generosity and cowardice intermingle, making it difficult to pass judgement.

Psychologist

From Norway, Pal Jackman's "Detektor" won the film critic's award in Norway. Daniel is a psychologist whose hobby is metal detecting. Searching beneath the surface of things, the detector becomes a way of life. He finds a necklace, gets to find out the identity of its owner, and his life changes completely.

"The Price of Milk," by Harry Sinclair (New Zealand), won the critics' award at the 2001 Fantasporto filmfest. It is a fairy tale set in a dairy farm about a couple so perfectly in love that they have nowhere to go but down.

From the United States, Jesus Nebot and Julia Montejo's "No Turning Back" won the audience award at the 2001 Magala Spanish Film Festival. Its protagonist is an illegal immigrant in the US who is involved in a tragic accident and flees to Mexico with his five-year-old daughter.

Tragic destiny

Changing his mind, he heads for Canada instead to give his daughter a better life. He is ready to do anything to make sure that his daughter doesn't become a victim of what he perceives to be his tragic destiny.

For its part, Israel is fielding "Foreign Sister," a film by Dan Wolman. This movie won the Volgin award for best picture at the Jerusalem International Film Festival.

Naomi has everything, but is being crushed by the oppressive daily routine of her life. Just before she breaks down, she invites an illegal worker, a Christian Ethiopian woman whose visa has expired, to stay with her. The interaction between the two women changes Naomi's life.

The Cinemanila filmfest runs from Dec. 7 to 16 at the Greenbelt and Glorietta Cinemas. Watch out for these award-winning films and other special features, including seminars and symposia on a wide range of subjects related to film and filmmaking.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV 24 – NOV 30

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	[illegible]
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 Auto Focus 11:30 Fox News	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Super S 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Eezy Dancing 10:30 Saturday Night Specials *Spellbinder*	5:30 Imbestigador 6:30 Biloy's World 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Sharon Stone/Bo Derek* 9:00 E! News Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Tom Arnold* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Claire Danes*
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 Business & Leisure 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Elizabeth Taylor: A Musical Celebration* 11:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Pokemon 7:30 Sinerama 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Where in Time is Carmen San Diego 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Lethal Weapon 3* 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Belle 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Smalltown X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 FYE! *GLAAD Awards w/ Cher* 7:30 FYE! *Playboy Lingerie Fashion Show* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Bob Guccione* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Carmen Elektra*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Speed 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Touched By An Angel 9:30 On Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonballZ 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:00 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Ms Universe '99* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On *Vegas Strip* 12:00 Talk Soup
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'Bahay ni Lola,' 'Yamashita' vie for slots in Metro filmfest

BY E. L. SICAM

THE METRO Manila Film Festival is fast approaching and the buzz is that the lineup of films will be as good if not better than last year's output.

Two films, one from Regal Entertainment, the other from MAQ Productions, are vying for spots in the filmfest, which is reportedly making room for seven entries this year compared to six in the year 2000.

Horror

Regal's contribution, "Bahay ni Lola," combines horror, family drama and special effects. The *lola* in this instance is played by Gloria Romero, who won the best actress award last year for her riveting performance as the matriarch stricken by the incurable Alzheimer's disease in "Tanging Yaman.".

This year, Gloria is also a strong figure in her family—except that she is a ghost looking after the ancestral home. The story takes off when a gang of cousins and close friends played by Miko Sotto, Maxine Magalona, Maybelline, Isabella, and Aiza Seguerra, together with their mom and aunt, Gina Alajar and Manilyn Reynes, and a gay butler of sorts, played by Allan K, spend their Christmas holiday in the ancestral home located in a remote town.

As with many families, being cooped up in a house for a long time leads to petty quarrels. Evil spirits take advantage of the situation by trying to take over the house. Soon, an evil mist has engulfed the house and it's up to Gloria to save her family from the malevolent beings.

This is definitely a big change from Gloria's role in "Tanging Yaman," but like her character last year, the *lola* is the focal point of the story.

Special effects are courtesy of Roadrunner Network, which provided the visual magic in "Spirit Warriors." Uro de la Cruz directs and has a field day with the high-tech gadgets.

Visual wizardry

The effects, still from Roadrunner, are even more astounding in "Yamashita" from MAQ. Encouraged by the box office success of "Spirit Warriors" which relied a lot on visual wizardry and cost about P40 million to make, producer Mother Lily is pouring in P80 million to make "The Lost Treasure of Yamashita" an even bigger hit. The same director who handled "Spirit Warriors," Chito Roño, is back with another potential blockbuster. Last year, Chito's actors were hunting for ghosts. This time around, the group (including Danilo Barrios and Camille Prats) competes with underworld characters to look for Yamashita's fabled treasure. Danilo's grandpa, played by Armando Goyena, holds the key to the treasure.

Also starring in the movie are Albert Martinez, Janus del Prado, Carlo Muñoz, Vic Diaz, Rustom Padilla, Bearwin Meily, Mico Palanca and Ethan Javier.

P80 M budget

Why P80 million? The movie was shot in San Francisco, California as well as different parts of the Philippines. Then there's a recreation of the retreat of Japanese forces during the American liberation of the country in 1944. Thousands of extras were used to play Filipinos, Japanese soldiers and American troops. To give the sets an authentic look, Roadrunner had to use the latest computer technology to complement the period costumes, armory and vehicles required by the scene.

Boy Abunda owns seven mobile phones

HERE'S the "buzz" on ebullient show biz authority Boy Abunda and his mobile phones: He owns seven of them—one which he bought, the rest he got as gifts. He's slow at texting, so if you text him a message, he'll call you right back.

Prayer

He "talks" to his cell phones: send him a prayer and he'll recite it to his unit; text him an uplifting quotation, and he'll whisper "thank you."

And though he's no techie—that is, he wouldn't know how to fax or email you through his phones—Abunda is able to reach more people these days through two functions exclusive to Touch Mobile Prepaid GSM, the latest cellular offering of GSM pioneers Isla Communications (Islacom) in cooperation with Globe Telecom.

Through "Voice Info," Touch Mobile's own information on-demand service, subscribers can get the scoop on Politics, Weather, Business, Traffic, Entertainment, and other relevant news by simply pressing 8140 on their handset.

Abunda, whose familiar voice is what callers hear when they access "Show Biz" and its segments "Celebrity Watch," "Celebrity Spotlight," and "Celebrity Tips," says he became involved in the project "because it was new and hadn't been done before. It was something I couldn't say no to. I was particularly excited about doing an entertainment show on the phone."

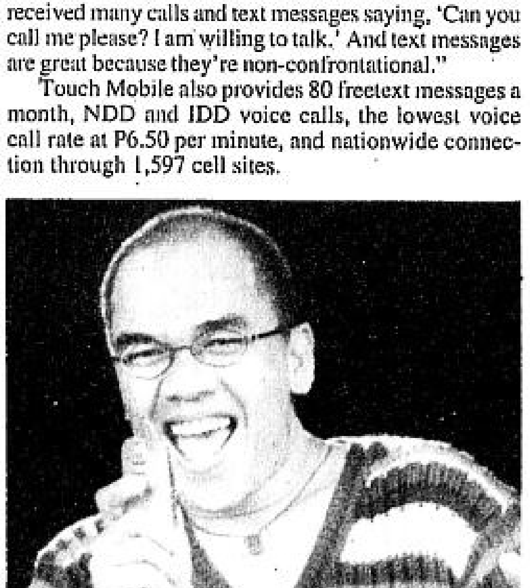
Daily dose

With the aid of an executive producer, a writer, two researchers and a transcriber, Abunda hits the recording studio twice a month ("more if necessary because we have to be current") to come up with a daily dose of "mini-shows"—seconds-long "chismis" ranging from juicy tidbits and Q&As to intriguing blind items. "But we're not so much into controversies," he assures. "We're more fun than anything else."

Fun also describes "Voice Messaging," Touch Mobile's unique feature that allows subscribers to either send a pre-recorded message (a.k.a. "sound icon") or a recording of their own voice by pressing 8160.

Interestingly, cell phones are both a blessing and a curse in Abunda's line of work. While they have been used to spread painful rumors and lies, these handy gadgets are also a godsend to those who want to set the record straight. "To us, it's everything," he admits. "Not only are we able to report stories and know what's happening even if we're somewhere else, but I have also received many calls and text messages saying, 'Can you call me please? I am willing to talk.' And text messages are great because they're non-confrontational."

Touch Mobile also provides 80 freetext messages a month, NDD and IDD voice calls, the lowest voice call rate at P6.50 per minute, and nationwide connection through 1,597 cell sites.



ABUNDA: "Text messages are great because they're non-confrontational."

'Kasangga' takes a more positive route

BY VERON DIONISIO

THE SEPT. 11 bombings of the World Trade Center and Pentagon in the world's premier financial and military power centers has prompted many of us to rethink and refocus our values and priorities. In this day and age when uncertainties can be most unsettling, it becomes even more imperative for us to make a little difference in this world. That's exactly what the creative minds behind the crime-centered show "Kasangga" think.

Turning point

Head writer Jun Lana says that Sept. 11 became a turning point for the show. "We knew that we couldn't do another year of highlighting the gory side of crimes," he recalls.

Lana e-mailed the show's production unit manager, Lilibeth Rasonable. A few weeks after, he got his answer: Rasonable felt the same way.

As a result of this decision, the group had to start from scratch again. "We initially wanted to make children's rights and domestic violence the focal points of the show, but we decided to concentrate on the perspective of heroism," narrates Lana.

But why heroism? Isn't this risky as far as the program's saleability is concerned? Lana replies: "Yes, crime sells. Violence and gory can pump up ratings. But we're positive that, given the same dramatic treatment, heroism can also capture audiences."

First attempt

Their first attempt at this new thrust has garnered high ratings. But what about its main star, Rudy Fernandez? Lana: "In fact, he is more involved now, because he does one-on-one interviews with the people directly involved in the case."

As for the people in the production, there is a greater feeling of fulfillment. "We feel a deeper sense of purpose. *Hindi na lang puro* ratings. The show has matured and we feel that we've grown, not just creatively but also personally," Lana says.

Won't they run out of stories about heroes? Lana: "We receive inspiring stories from all sorts of people. And as a contingency measure, we plan to coordinate with local government units (LGUs) to furnish us with stories of heroism in their respective localities." "Kasangga" airs every Tuesday, 10 p.m. on GMA.

FERNANDEZ. Now more involved with the show.

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Josephine A. Salcedo, Manas Y Bienas St., Iloilo City

2 Teen Dream Showcase
Vespa Scooters
GMA/Luzon
Imelda P. Limuco, 58 Mata St., Tondo, Manila
Belinda B. Rodriguez, 11 Francisco St., Taal, Bocaue, Bulacan
Visayas/Mindanao
Evalyn B. Gaga-a, 168 M. Roxas St., Dapitan City, Zamboanga Del Norte
Alma Mataum, Tupaz, Amaguara, Bohol

3 KIDDIE Techno SHOWCASE
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GMA/Luzon
Franchesca Eloisa Uy, 50-C J. Bugallon St., Proj. 4, Quezon City
Edgar Ranot, 2417 M. dela Cruz St., Pasay City
Shirley E. Asuncion, L4 B3 Llamzon St., Armel II Subd. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal
Visayas/Mindanao
Ana Maria V. Licup, Burgos Apt. 2 3rd St., Guingona Subd., Butuan City
Elsie S. Ginete, San Roque, Baclayon, Bohol
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Florencia Bado Ebasan, Proper Hinaplanon, Iligan City
Lila M. Alias, Ban. A6. Abnodian, Iloilo City
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What Kind
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PARKER
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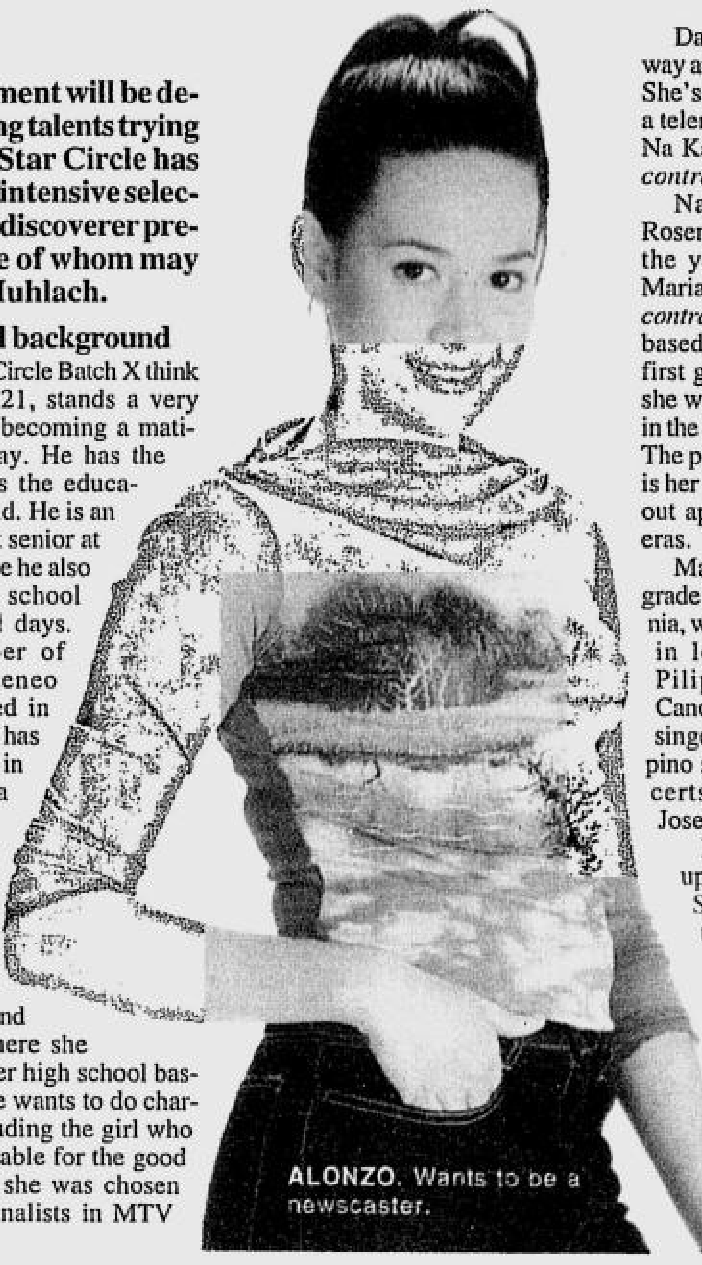
Meet Star Circle's Batch X

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE FUTURE of Philippine entertainment will be determined by the quality of new and young talents trying to make a dent in the business today. Star Circle has been known to spot potential stars though its intensive selection and training process. Recently, the talent discoverer presented its latest batch of aspiring stars, some of whom may become as big as Judy Ann Santos or Aga Muhlach.

TEJADA. A sophomore at La Consolacion.


ALONZO. Wants to be a newscaster.

Educational background

Many in Star Circle Batch X think Alfred Vargas, 21, stands a very good chance of becoming a matinee idol someday. He has the looks as well as the educational background. He is an AB management senior at the Ateneo, where he also spent his grade school and high school days. He is a member of Tanghalang Ateneo and has appeared in several plays. He has an important role in "Pangako Sa 'Yo."

Several girls in the batch grew up in foreign countries. Marianne Savanno, 20, comes from the land down under, where she was captain of her high school basketball team. She wants to do characters roles including the girl who makes life miserable for the good guys. Recently, she was chosen one of the 10 finalists in MTV Asia's VJ Hunt.

Daniella Havran, 17, is from Norway and is half Czech and half Pinay. She's already gotten her feet wet in a telenovela, "Eto Na Ang Susunod Na Kabanata," where she played a *contravida*.

Nadine Eidloth was born in Rosenheim. Germany. At 13, she is the youngest in the group. Like Marianne and Daniella, she prefers *contravida* roles. Kat Villarante, 18, based in Canada for seven years, first gained notice in Manila when she was chosen to play a major role in the musical "The Little Mermaid." The petite singer admits that theater is her first love but she has not ruled out appearing in front of the cameras.

Maoui David, 14, was an eighth grade student in San Diego, California, when she decided to try her luck in local show biz. Mutya ng Pilipinas titlist Josephine Canonizado is her aunt. The young singer has guested in several Filipino shows abroad, including concerts with Roselle Nava and Josephine "Banig" Roberto.

Bea Alonzo, 14, did not grow up abroad but her dad is a Briton. She's stayed here most of the time so there is no trace of a British accent when she speaks. Her family is supportive of her show biz ambitions, but education remains a top priority. She wants to be a newscaster.

Models

The world of modeling is also represented in this batch. Reggie Curley, 23, has appeared in commercials for Speed detergent bar, San Miguel and Pancake House. His face also appears on the billboards of Bocalitos Chips. He will soon appear in Chito Roño's "Yamashita."

VARGAS. Theater experience.

CASTILLO. Bent on becoming an action star.

Robby Mananquil, 22, is a ramp model and has appeared in commercials for the Oxygen clothing line. He is a Fine Arts graduate from UP. Snooky Ann Sanchez, 18, has appeared in several commercials and would now like to get into the acting business. Julia Roberts is one of her idols. "She's so pretty and always looks good in her movies, whether she plays a nerd, a slut, or a movie star," says Snooky.

Adrian Albert, 19, comes from a conservative family but that did not stop him from becoming a model. It was all for fun, however. He now wants to expand his horizons and says show biz is the best place to develop his self-confidence. He would like to be a web designer someday and eventually manage his own computer business. That is, unless his show biz career really takes off and demands more of his time.

Aaron Concepcion, 18, has modeled for BPI, Coca Cola and Pro-Mac, but is quite shy. He was reluctant to join the auditions but eventually overcame his shyness and passed with flying colors.

MEET/p.F4

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SMART SIM Swap Your Way to the MTV Asia Aw

Excitement and anticipation among young Filipinos nationwide for the inaugural MTV Asia Awards to be held in Singapore on February 2, 2002, will surely double with the launch of SMART's Barkada SIM Swap Promo on November 20, 2001, in Manila and on November 22 in the provinces.

SMART Communications, Inc. is the Philippine partner sponsor of the MTV Asia Awards which will pay tribute to the viewers' choices of the most amazing artists or artistic creations across the region.

From November 20, 2001, to January 10, 2002, all SMART Group/Barkada SIM swappers with a minimum of four members each shall be given a raffle coupon for a chance to win a trip to Singapore for 4 plus 1 person to watch the MTV Asia Awards with Php 25,000.00 pocket money for each winning member.

All group SIM swappers should fill out the raffle coupon with their name, address, SMART Buddy/Gold celfone number, signature and submit their entries to authorized TSI agents or SMART Customer Care Officers.

Interested promo participants may group SIM swap at all TSI branches, SMART Wireless Centers or any SMART school or mall event nationwide.

Four lucky groups will win a trip to Singapore to watch the MTV Asia Awards plus pocket money of Php 25,000.00 cash for each member.

Twenty different awards will be given out at the 2002 MTV Asia Awards, including 11 "Favorite Music Artist" awards from territories around the region, six "International Music" category awards, one "Fashion" category award, one "Film" category award and one "Inspiration" award. Nominees for each category have been compiled from votes of key figures from the Asian

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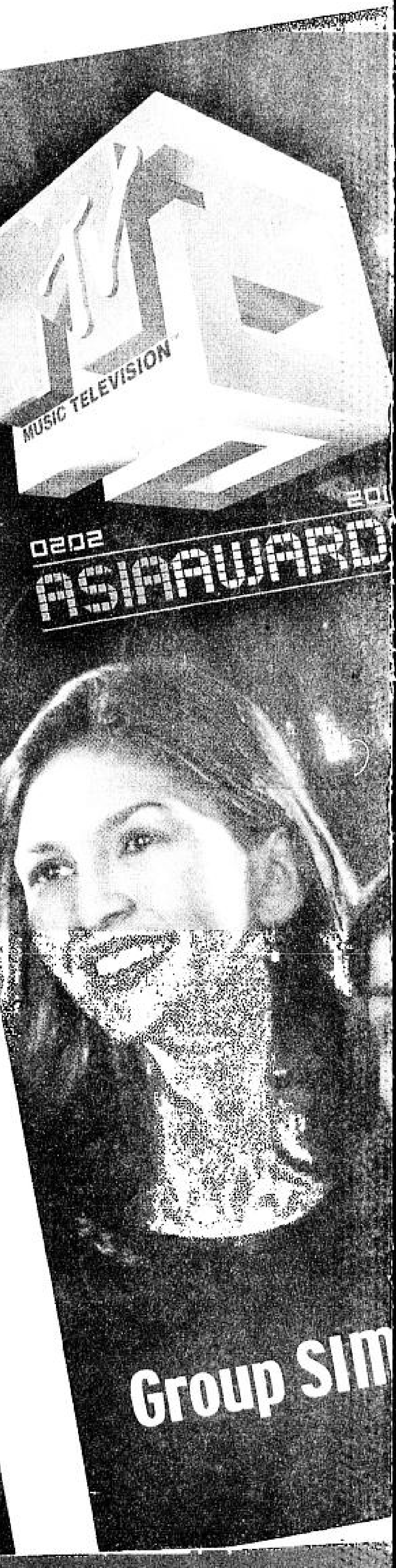

Join the SMART Barkada SIM Swap and you & your friends could win a trip for five to the MTV Asia Awards in Singapore on February 2, 2002! Plus, each barkada member gets P25,000.00 shopping money as well! It's so easy! You can switch to SMART Buddy or SMART Gold. So hurry, promo runs from November 20, 2001 until January 10, 2002 only. Bring your buddies to any SMART Wireless Center, TSI branch, SMART school or mall event and swap to SMART today! This could be one gimmick your barkada will never forget!

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5. A total of four (4) barkadas will win a trip to Singapore for five to watch the draw on January 15, 2002.
6. SMART will only shoulder the expenses of the trip for a maximum of 5 pers
7. Winners will be notified through a voice call, text message, and registered
8. Prizes may be claimed at Ace Saatchi and Saatchi, 10th floor, Feliza Bldg.,
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*SMART will only shoulder the cost for a maximum of five barkada members. Winning bark in the winning barkada, SMART will not shoulder the cost for the guardian. Winning grou
*Individual SIM swappers from November 20, 2001 - January 10, 2002 may also win P20,0
*Customer Care Officers, TSI agents and TSI counter representatives may also win P30,000.
*Customer Care Officers, TSI agents and TSI counter representatives may also win P10,000.

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music, entertainment and fashion industries.

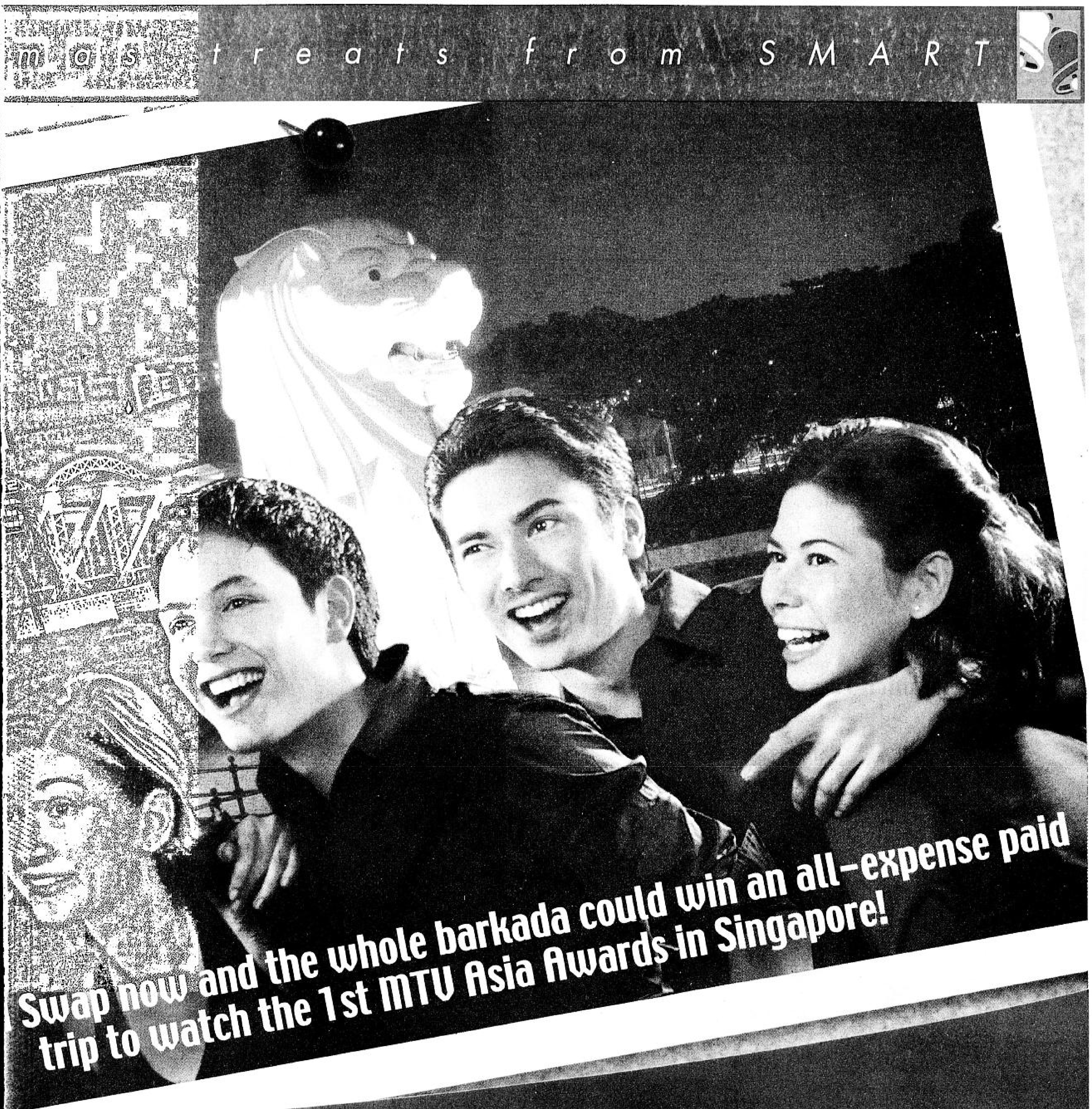
Winners will be revealed at a ceremony to be held before a live audience of more than 7,000 fans at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, which will include the four lucky barkadas who will win the Singapore trip from SMART's Barkada SIM Swap Promo. The ceremony will be taped and aired to over 150 million viewers across Asia, with highlights being seen on MTV's channels around the world.

Nominees for each category will be promoted on MTV's six channels and online sites across Asia from November 12, 2001.

All award categories (except for the "Inspiration" award) will be selected by the viewers and fans in 10 markets through an open poll from November 12, 2001, to January 18, 2002. Viewers can vote at local voting partner outlets in each market. In the Philippines, they can also vote by texting MTV to 211 through SMART. The "Inspiration" award will be a special honor presented by MTV to either an inspiring individual whom young adults across Asia admire, or to an organization that has contributed to the betterment of Asian youth and the whole region.

According to Frank Brown, President of MTV Asia, "It's really exciting for us to be presenting the first-ever pan-regional awards show recognizing and paying tribute to the talented artists loved by viewers across Asia. The MTV Asia Awards will provide a platform to bring together international and Asian talent, and to showcase them globally via our network of channels."

SMART Communications is proud to be a part of this momentous celebration of youth culture through the universal language of music, and joins MTV Asia and its other partners in honoring the vast and diverse talents that the region has to offer.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How 'American Adobo' was shot in the States

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Conclusion)

HOW do American film crews differ from the ones we have here? Laurice Guillen, director of "American Adobo," observes, "They're much more time-conscious than we are. They shoot for fewer hours (a maximum of 12 hours each day), but it's work-work-work from start to finish!"

American component

The US shoot was Laurice's chance to get away from the *"direk"* tag that all directors here are saddled with. She instructed the Filipino members of her team not to call her that, and the American component certainly wasn't about to call her anything of the sort!

What happened was, the Filipinos felt so skittish about calling her by her name instead that, "in the end, they didn't call me anything at all!"

One thing that Laurice liked was the complete equality of the sexes that held sway on the shoot of "American Adobo." The crew was made up of men and women, and they did the same amount of work. If something had to be lifted, everyone gave it the old-heave-ho, regardless of gender.

LAURICE with producer Tony Gloria filming in New York.

She also appreciated the no-nonsense, no bullshit, no-*sipsip* atmosphere on the set. *"Hindi na ako napapagod sa kakadiplomasya,"* she recalls with evident relief.

Since everybody was expected to work hard, there was a lot of food—more than enough for both Filipino *and* American stomachs. At mealtimes, democracy was the rule, and Laurice liked that, too: *"Hindi nauuna ang mga artista*—in fact, *una ang* crew!"

The Filipino crew members felt so skittish about calling director Guillen by her name that they didn't call her anything at all!

RANDY Becker and Dina Bonnevie take a stroll in Central Park in a scene from Guillen's new film.

Co-production

"American Adobo" is a co-production of Tony Gloria's Unitel Films, ABS-CBN and Magic Adobo Productions, the project's Fil-Am component in the States (Vincent Nebrida, Kevin Fox, etc.). It will open in the States (with simultaneous premieres in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles) in January 2002. That's also its Philippine playdate.

Advance word on the production is exceptionally encouraging, with the film getting very positive reviews after some preview screenings and its "baptism of fire" at the San Diego International Film Festival some weeks ago.

Unitel Films has a lot riding on "American Adobo," but producer Tony Gloria is feeling upbeat about the movie and it chances. It has elements that can appeal to both Filipino and American audiences, and its story about expatriates is also relevant to other members of minority groups trying to make it in any foreign country.

Production values

Unitel wants to position itself as a producer of alternative films that don't scrimp on technicals and production values. It is doing pre-production work on a couple of other projects that, like "American Adobo," seek to offer viewers something fresh and different in terms of film entertainment.

The new production company is also very supportive of young film talents, and is tapping new screenwriters and directors for its subsequent TV-film projects next year.

But Gloria isn't new to the movie business. In fact, years ago, he was one of the prime movers responsible for a number of hit movies produced by a major film company.

With pluck—and luck—the collaboration of Unitel, ABS-CBN, Guillen and the other venturesome film people involved in "American Adobo" will be rewarded by the Philippine and US viewing public with its enthusiastic patronage.

That way, more movies like it can be produced, to help get local films out of the rut they're in, and to enable them to be shown on international movie screens, where, along with films from Iran, Taiwan and China, they rightfully belong.

Georgios Panayiotou — George Michael
Li Lian Jie — Jet Li
Gary Valenciano — Gary V.
Jennifer Lopez — j.lo
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CLINT ALBERT. Enjoys swimming and basketball.

Meet Star . . .

(From page F1)

Many of the young talents are active in sports and have the athletic physique to show for it. Paulo Maderal, 22, is into fencing, basketball, swimming, boxing and martial arts. He's the funnyman in the group but he has his serious side. He wants to try acting but he knows he needs more training.

Craig Tuazon, 22, spends three hours a day lifting weights at the gym and that's where he was discovered by Talent Center's Johnny Manahan. He is also into taekwondo and kickboxing. Certainly a candidate for action star.

Lance Castillo, 18, collects knives and has the build of an action star, the result of his interest in taekwondo and grappling. He is a Philosophy major at UST. Clint Albert, 18, stands six feet tall and enjoys swimming and basketball.

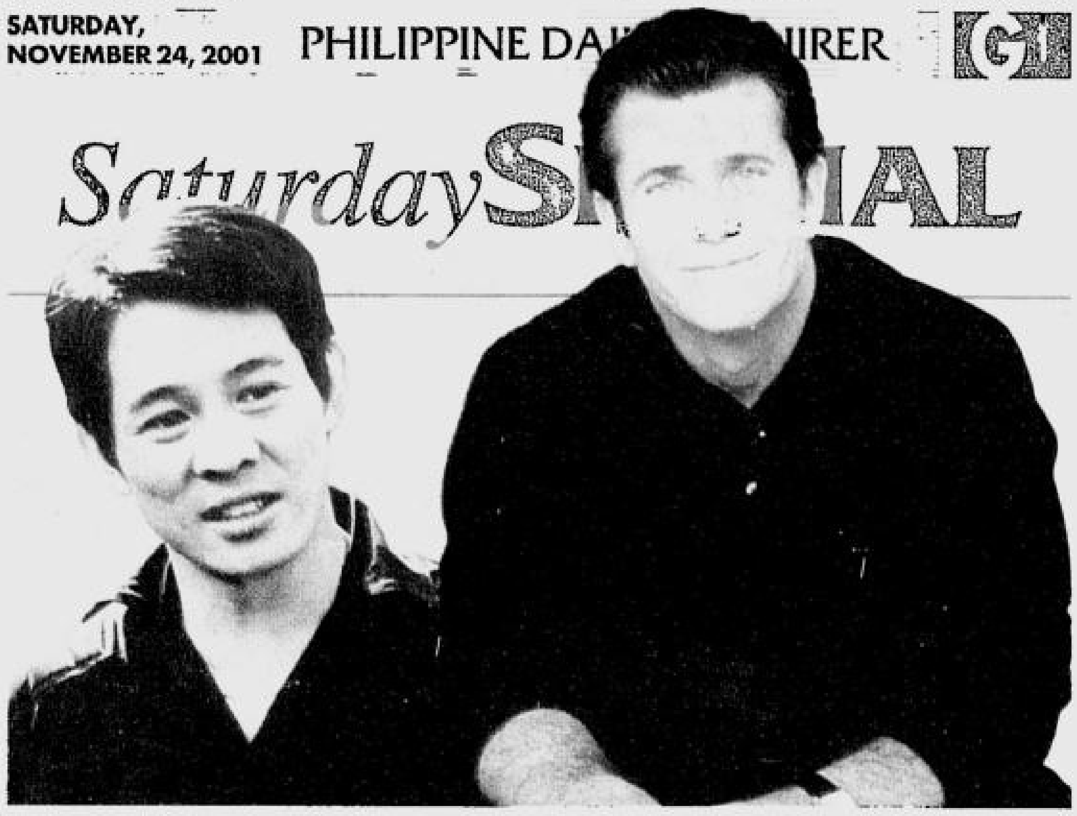
Brian Martin, 20, was discovered while he was playing basketball in school. In fact, if he hadn't been discovered, he would now be playing professional basketball. He is also a talented dancer. Another guy who's cool on the dance floor is John-C Borjal, 20.

Auditions

Some stars get discovered. Many try the old fashioned route—go to auditions. Abby Rivera joined an "MTB" call for dancers and emerged as one of the winners. Liberty Lometillo, 16, was part of the group which represented their school in "MTB's" cheering competition. Dennis Trillo has been going to auditions since his elementary days.

Marc Acueza, 16, joined "MTB's" personality and talent contest. Michelle Ayalde auditioned for "Ang TV." Diane Tejada, 18, has always wanted to be in show biz but her parents wanted her to finish her schooling first. A sophomore at La Consolacion, she's decided that this is the right time to join the field and she auditioned for Batch 10—and got in!

Who will make it in the highly competitive field of show biz? It's going to take not just talent and a pretty face but patience and luck—lots of it.



MEL Gibson was blown away by Jet Li's fighting style in "Lethal Weapon 4."

Mel Gibson and Jet Li bring 'Invincible' to US TV

By Craig Reid

LOS ANGELES—After fighting tooth and nail on the screen in "Lethal Weapon 4," Hollywood great Mel Gibson and Hong Kong action star Jet Li struck up a friendship off the set.

And they also formed a partnership that resulted in the martial arts TV movie "Invincible" that will air on Sunday night (8 p.m. EST) on US TV network TBS.

Good side

The movie stars Billy Zane, of "Titanic" fame, and is about a character named Os (Zane), a 2,000-year-old dark angel "Shadowman" who kills for pleasure. In a moment of clarity, he switches to the good side and trains four young fighters to battle evil forces that threaten the existence of mankind and the Earth.

"Invincible" is chock full of the gravity-defying fight scenes that are typical of Hong Kong action movies and a philosophical element runs through the story.

Gibson and Li share executive producer credits for the TV movie that features the wirework of Hong Kong fight direction pioneer Ching Siu Tung, and also introduces the action director legend to Hollywood.

Ching's pioneering style of wirework from the early '80s is considered by other Hong Kong fight direction greats as the blueprint for wire stunts in action films.

The "Invincible" team is hoping to spin the movie into a series for US television audiences.

High wire work

Gibson said that he was blown away by Jet Li's fighting style in "Lethal Weapon 4" (1998) and the high wire work that is the trademark of Hong Kong action movies.

During filming of that movie, Jet asked Gibson if he would be interested in doing a TV series based in a Chinese style, and the result was "Invincible."

"It's about five elements (wood, water, air, fire, metal) who are characters and how they work together and about yin-yang, the balance of things like good-bad, where our lead man is bad due to bad universal energy, but he becomes good and philosophical," Li told Reuters.

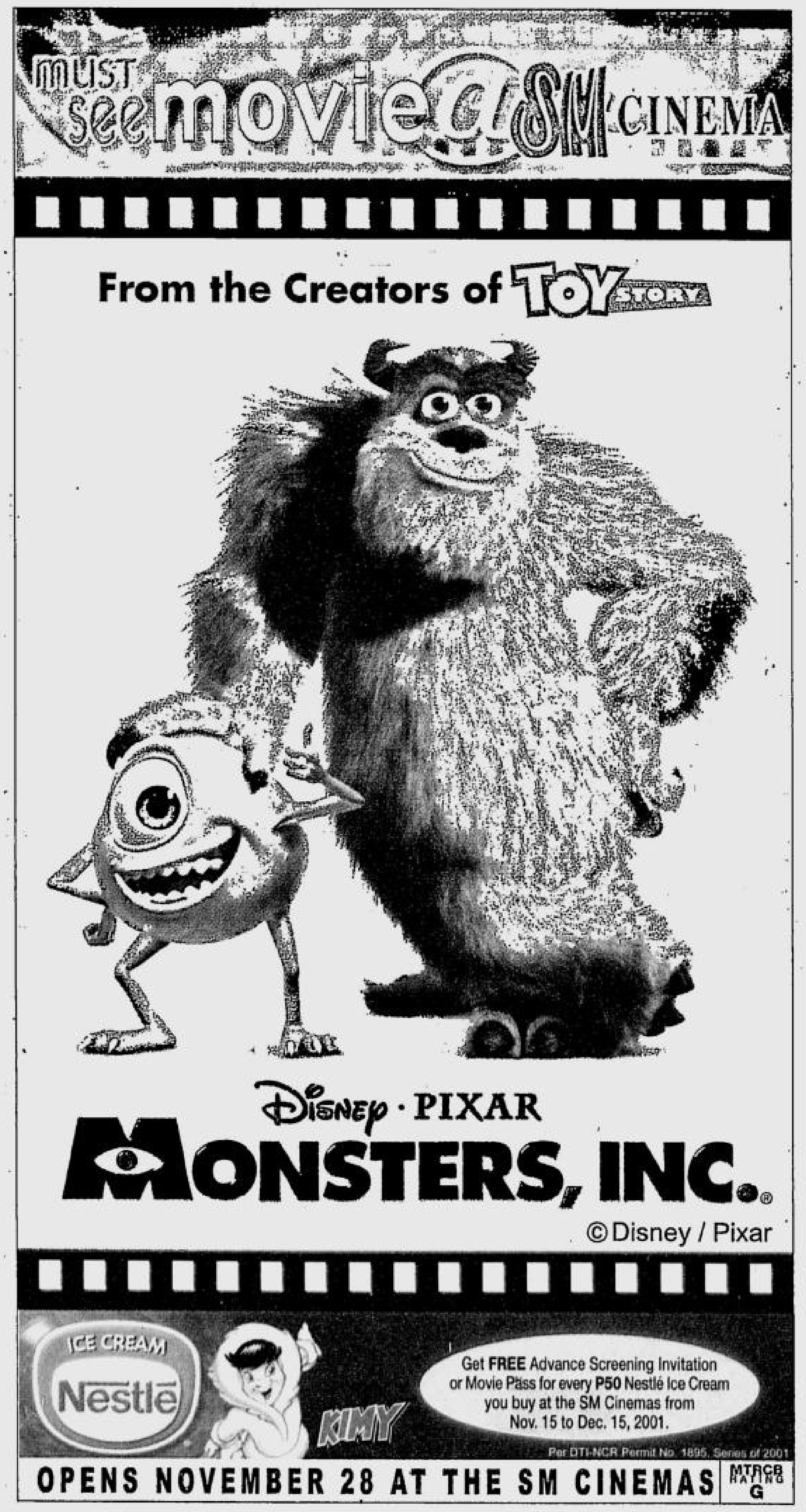
Zane said that because of the show, he has started regular training in martial arts and the TV movie's ponderings on the nature of good and evil have been appealing for him.

Message

"It's the message of fighting with love and it's high time we introduce a more multifaceted perspective on martial art where the current appetite for it is often devoid of its philosophy," Zane said.

"(Action director) Ching is a wild cat," Zane said, "He'd always say, 'More power, more power' and it became our mantra. His shooting style is amazing and he made the shoot very physically challenging."

TBS is owned by AOL Time Warner Inc. *Reuters*



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FAMILY TIES

Yllana brothers launch 'Larawan's' Christmas special on show biz families

By Jocelyn Valle

FOR Filipinos, Christmas means family. Thus, starting on Nov. 28 till the last Wednesday of the year, Channel 7's drama anthology, "Larawan," will divert from its one-featured-artist-a-month format. Instead, each episode will have show biz family members as guests—Joey Marquez, Alma Moreno and their kids, Ronaldo Valdez with son Janno and his wife Bing and daughter Alyssa, and Gelli de Belen and Ariel Rivera.

Hit comedy

The Yllana brothers (Anjo, Jomari and Paully) open the special series with the Arjel Joseph-directed "Christmas Tree," which is inspired by the hit comedy, "Three Men and Baby." Anjo plays a chef, while Jomari is a model and Paully, a news editor.

Within the same period of time, they dated one girl (Precious Valencia) and one day, she appears at the brothers' door with a baby. They don't know who the real dad is, but they take care of the baby, nonetheless. In the end, of course, it will be revealed what really happened to the girl.

This is not the first time that Anjo, Jomari and Paully are appearing together in a teleplay. They did a *telesine* a few years ago, but it was a serious drama. This time, the situation is a lot lighter, just like what they are in real life.

Secrets

"We're close but we also keep some secrets from one another," shares Paully, while taking a break from taping their episode. "Anjo is the eldest so he's like a father figure to us. I'm closer to Jomari (who's a few years younger) but I'm closest to our youngest brother Ryan (who's 19). "They have another brother, Robbie, who comes between Anjo and Paully."

When Jomari and his wife, actress-turned-politician Aiko Melendez, were having marital problems, Anjo didn't meddle. "I only gave Jomari advice when he asked me to," he avers.

Anjo's own marriage (to former show biz hopeful Jackie Manzano) is more stable. Parañaque's two-term councilor is eight years older than his wife, so he's the one who's more patient. "*Importante din ang* communication—*at saka*," he chuckles, "*iwasan ang tsismis*."

Racing circuit

Jomari continues to make show biz headlines with his supposed relationship with a sexy star but as always, he's mum on the issue. He'd rather spend his time supervising the construction of his and his Japanese partners' international racing circuit in Angeles, Pampanga. He's happy to spend time with his and Aiko's son Andrei.

The siblings' common interests include sports, specifically basketball, and cooking. Paully bakes cakes and loves to grill meat. Ryan, who's tall at 6'3 and very big, says Paully, is studying to become a chef. When Anjo was younger, he also used to experiment in the kitchen, but now he admits that frying is his only way of cooking.

WHEN Jomari (right) was having marital problems, Anjo did not meddle.

The siblings' common interests include basketball and cooking

Acting runs in the Yllana genes. Anjo paved the way for his brothers by finding his niche in comedy and hosting ("Beh, Bote Nga" and "Eat Bulaga," both on GMA 7). Jomari has established himself as a dramatic actor, though he likewise appears in sitcoms, and is an endorser of Bench products. Ryan was a co-star in one of Jomari's movies.

Paully was in the cast of the old "Ang TV" a few years ago and was doing supporting roles on a few movies and TV shows until he took a self-imposed sabbatical. "I *tried* to study," he recalls, shaking his head. "But now I'm back in school, determined to finish my aeronautics degree at PATTS, and later join the military, just like our dad. I also train our school's volleyball team, with Isabel Granada as one of our players."

The Yllanas' stint on "Larawan" is Paully's first after a long while. "I thought I would be very nervous acting again," he relates. "But I was calm during takes. I realized how much I missed acting."

Family affair

Christmas is likewise a family affair for the Yllanas. It's going to be blue this year, though, since their father is already gone. "It's hard but we'll try to make it happier by celebrating Christmas together," sighs Paully.

Just like in the past, they will attend the midnight Mass before having their traditional Noche Buena. "I once promised my dad to make roast turkey or roast beef for Noche Buena," Paully recalls, adding that their dad loved to eat.

He plans to fulfill his promise this year. Otherwise, it will be another bowl of fruit salad as he's wont to serve every year, in addition to the sumptuous holiday fare that Ms Yllana will be preparing for her brood. "She's the best cook in the family," Paully exclaims.

The Yllanas exchange gifts after partaking of the Noche Buena. "We give useful things to each other," comments Paully. "Special gifts are reserved for our mother."

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Franco and Ayen Laurel make beautiful music together

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

ALL roads lead to the Music Museum tonight when singer-host Franco Laurel stages his biggest concert for the year. The event is made more special because its Franco's first after he tied the knot with former Brunei princess Ayen Munji, herself an accomplished musical-theater actress.

Franco and Ayen got married in March and claim that they are still in their "honeymooning" stage. "A baby is being planned maybe next year," volunteers Franco, " because we still want to enjoy each other before taking on the responsibilities of having a new baby. "Ayen has two kids from her former relationships."

In the meantime, both of them are in the thick of rehearsals to make sure that Franco's big show tonight will be a visual and musical delight. They have tapped the country's premier vocals group The Company and funnyman John Lapuz to add spice and flavor to their show.

Obvious bias for 'mestizos'

We recall that during the press launch of the 2001 MTV VJ Hunt, we asked the organizers if there was a prevalent bias for *mestizos* and *mestizas* in the selection of finalists and winners of their search. They gave us a negative answer, reiterating that more than a specific type of look, they would favor personality, youthful dynamism and the "X" factor that best describes the people who have made their mark as VJs for the Asian MTV channels.

But, when they announced the finalists, a majority of those who made it were half-Pinoy, half-something-else. And when the final competition was held at Megamall last weekend, the MTV people decided on two winners who do not in any way look Pinoy: Derek Ramsey and Anna Shier.

Not that the these people didn't deserve to win , specially our favorite, Derek Ramsey, a model who's making waves in the fashion and advertising fields. It's just that we don't agree that looking Pinoy should get minus points in contests like this because there is a vast well of talents out there who can beat *mestizos* anytime.

In all fairness, though, we think Ramsey will hit it big time and impress the executives of the MTV Regional office when he starts his job soon.

'Debate' turns three

"Debate with Mare and Pare," is turning three this week and its hosts are still having a lot of fun. We spoke recently to Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos, and they look forward to more unforgettable episodes. Expect some improvements that will add luster to the program.

We asked the hosts if they still have any political ambitions and they gave varying answers. Orbos said that it has always been an aspiration.

Monsod, on the other hand, believes its a remote possibility for her, "It's very unlikely," she said, " It will only be less unlikely when we have automated election, because a lot of money changes hands after the votes are cast."

Tikoy Aguiluz hangs on to his dreams

The Cinemanila International Film Festival is a brainchild of film director Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI and was first held in July 1999.

Despite the rather lukewarm reception to the filmfest's previous outings, Aguiluz is determined to realize his vision of making Manila a showcase of the best films in the world.

This year, the festival is scheduled on Dec. 7 to 16 at the Glorietta and Greenbelt cinemas in Makati City, and more than 80 films have been submitted for con-

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0662, Series of 2001.

The Power Plant

POWER PLANT MALL
AT ROCKWELL

Top fashion models and Hollywood

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

IN "Kiss Them For Me," a comedy starring tall, dark and handsome Cary Grant and buxom Jayne Mansfield, Suzy Parker's spectacularly breathtaking entrance was ruined by a voice so flat that it could have served as a model for a bump-free highway. No perceptible vocal nuances, no color and no verve in her delivery at all! Her voice was the direct antithesis of her fiery Vogue image! What could have been the problem?

ZETA-JONES. Impeccably beautiful.

I suspect the problem is fundamentally rooted to the different kinds of projection demanded by each field. When the actress does not differentiate one from the other there can be a disastrous dramatic effect.

External

For haute couture and fashion, the projection is external. It is generally on the surface—a look, a palpable presence and a certain "feel" that the photographer's camera captures for magazine covers. The needed effect is theatrical, bigger than life and obvious.

On the other hand, film acting demands more internalization, greater truth and considerable enigma. The emotional nuances are more varied, thus allowing for a more personal impact on the viewer.

Experienced film actors also remember Director George Cukor's sound advice given to Hollywood neophyte Katharine Hepburn when she was making her first film. He was taken aback by her theatrical gestures and whispered to her, "Less is more."

The camera, after all can take close-ups that magnify human emotions with great and more realistic effect. This is more desirable for the art of film acting.

Transition

For this reason, actresses who resorted to modeling as an alternative profession before Hollywood beckoned succeed in the transition. They know how to delve into their inner selves in order to create and project a sensitive character with truth and sincerity.

On the other hand, models who accept the Hollywood challenge but maintain the same "still-picture" attack appear wooden and stilted in their acting.

After being given the initial chance to enter the world of cinema, they are quietly dropped by casting directors, and simultaneously rejected by a disappointed audience. They become a thing of the past.

Those who are able to combine the vital glamorous veneer with a truthful projection have great appeal, as evidenced by the tremendous success of the likes of Julia Roberts, a Hollywood bigwig. She is certainly not in the league of Catherine Zeta-Jones as far as beauty is concerned. There are others more advantaged in that department, yet she has caught the fancy of a fickle and discriminatory audience.

Beside Czech superstar model Paulina Porizkova, Julia looks like a maid. For that reason, however, she was physically credible as the plain sister of film diva Zeta-Jones in "America's Sweethearts."

On the other hand, impeccably beautiful Catherine would not have been believable as the plain Jane. Neither would the classic Paulina, Jean or Suzy.

Third billing

Chameleon-like Julia (beautiful at one point and plain in another) is the highest-paid actress in Hollywood these days. Catherine took third billing after Julia and Billy Crystal, while feature-perfect (those eyes, lips, cheek bones were custom-made) Paulina is content with being a housewife.

Her initial movie caused no big stir in the film world, although beautiful she indeed is. Anna will be an exquisite face we will remember many years from now.

Beauty is not enough to sustain a career in Hollywood. Beautiful starlets have come and gone. By the mid-'60s, realism in cinema dealt with the harsh realities of life as well as the mundane problems of ordinary Joes and Janes.

Hollywood thus welcomed proletarians types like Jane Fonda, Sally Field and Sissy Spacek, who represented this new breed of film actors. They were a talented bunch of actors but they created characters totally credible as ordinary citizens of the world.

Great beauties

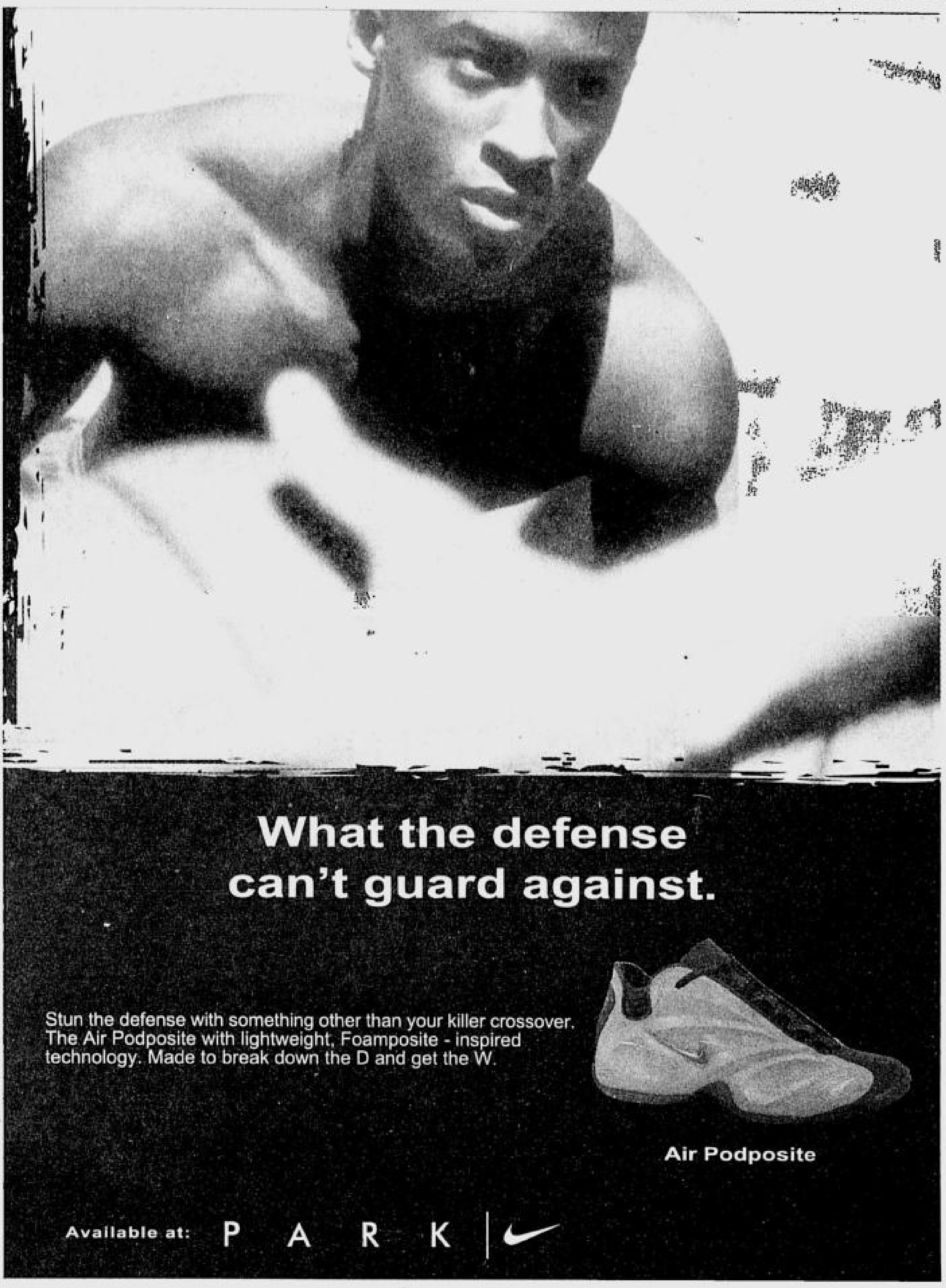
Great beauties like Jennifer O'Neil, a top New York model who was such a hit in "Summer of '42," were not suited for "Norma Rae," "They Shoot Horses" or "Carrie." Even the stunning Sean Young, who is a talented and tempestuous actress, has the hardest time finding the role that will establish her among the stars. Michelle Pfeiffer often has to de-glamorize herself for those dramatic roles.

The audience's taste for beauty has changed, indeed—for which reason, Cindy Crawford chose to appear in an action film rather than a glamorous one for her movie debut. No offer has come to Cindy after that bomb. As far as the film world is concerned, she is only remembered as an ex-wife of Richard Gere.

Models who are beautiful but unreachable are not the audience's cup of tea. The audience prefers women who talk, move and look like them. Most of all, they have to convince the audience that they can act. But, above all, also *act* like *them*.

Therefore, screen personalities with chameleon-like traits possessed by fine actresses like Julia, Meryl Streep, Sally Field and Sissy Spacek will remain in demand because they are the finest translators of women's everyday problems in films today.

These talented actresses have won over the modern thinking audience. Lauren and Cybill will also mature into fine character actresses. Their modeling careers will be mere items of little consequence in their bio-data. They will enjoy long and illustrious careers as successful actresses in Hollywood who, only "by the way were models" before they faced the Hollywood klieg lights and triumphed.



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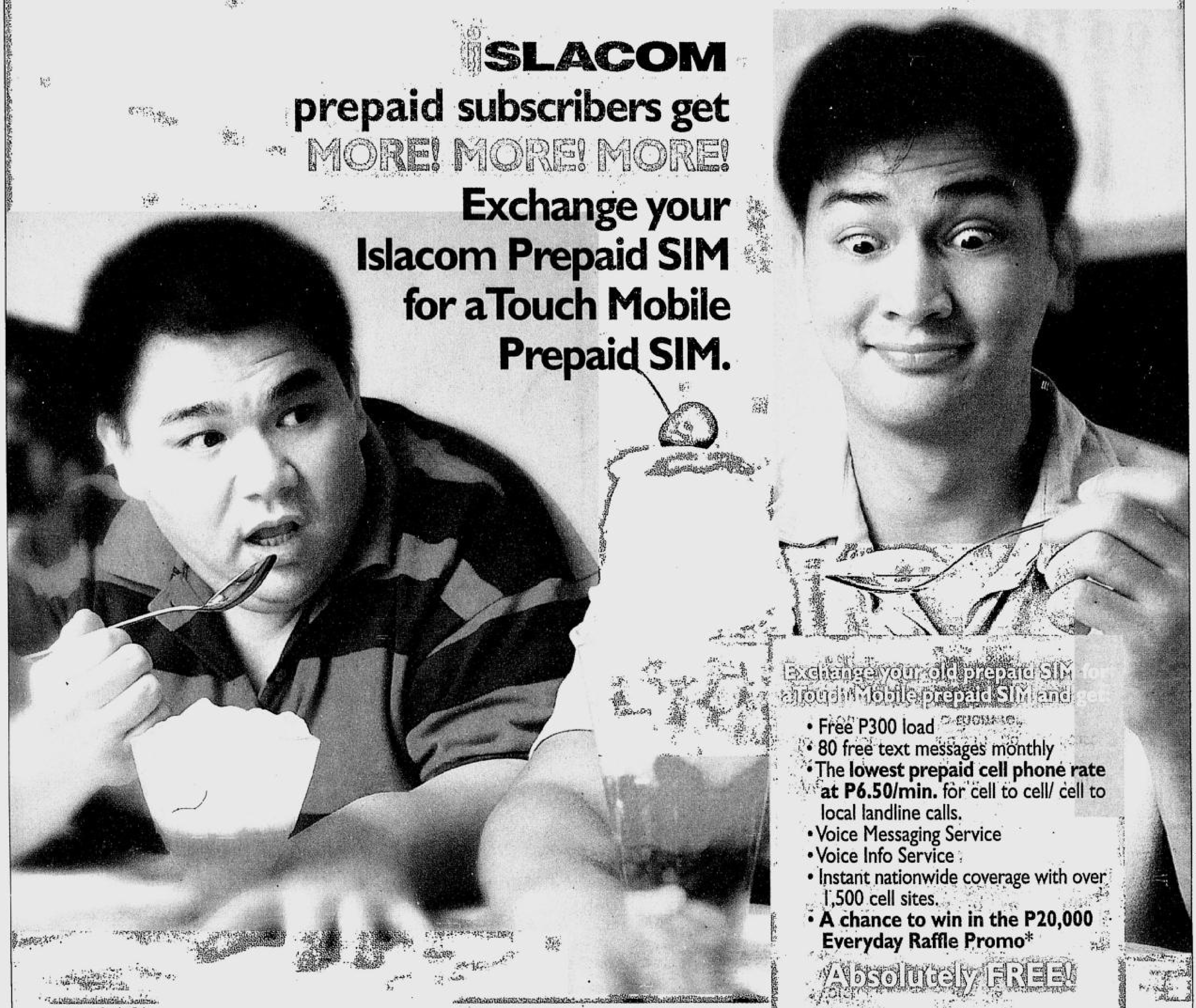

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2001 ◆ 12 PAGES ◆ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 59

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OF HOGWARTS, QUIDDITCH AND YOU-KNOW-WHO

Does anyone think we should take up Quidditch for Physical Education? JI correspondent ***Louella E. Yu*** *does. Here's her report on the first ever screening of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in Manila*

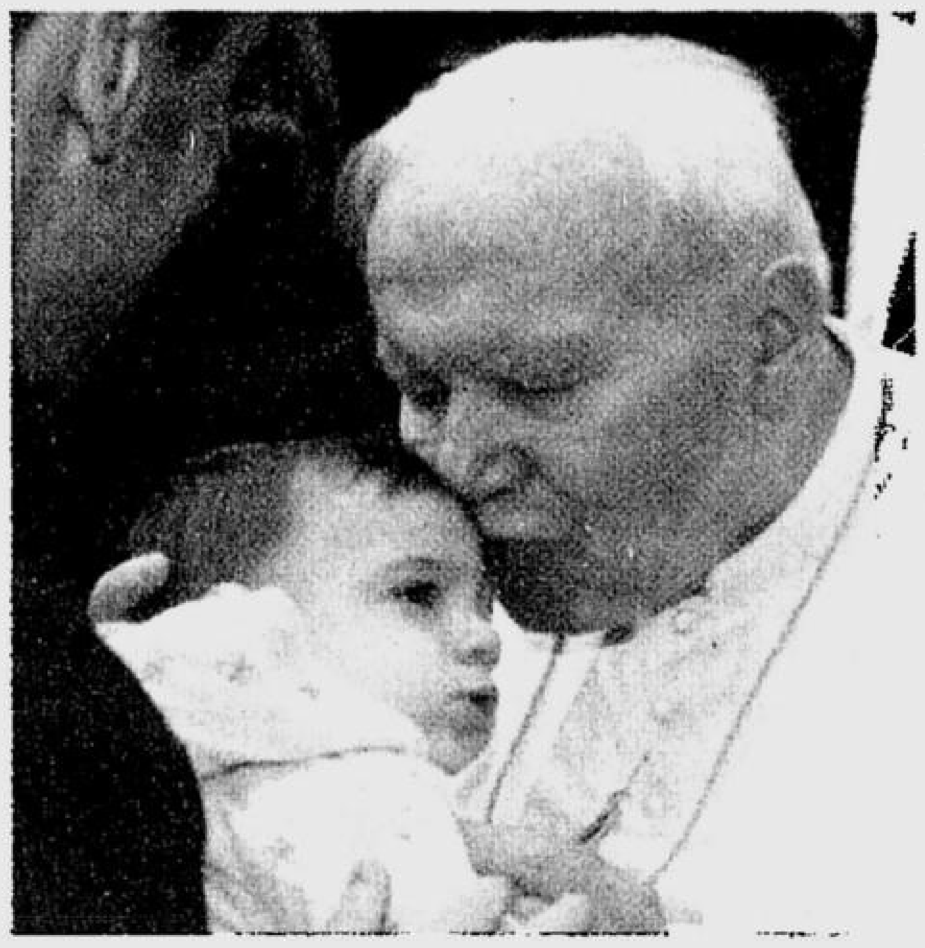
OHMIGOSH! I can't believe it! I just watched "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" at its first ever screening in the Philippines! I left the theater with my head reeling! Thankfully not reeling enough to turn me into Nearly Headless Nick Jr.

Usually, I'm against books being made into movies because I believe that they stifle our imagination. But this was an exception. The film was... Wow! It was like... Boom! And after watching it, you'd feel like... Whoa! Then your jaw just slams on the floor! There's just absolutely no word to describe this Wow-Boom-Whoa-Jaw-dropping movie!

Of Hogwarts/ p.3

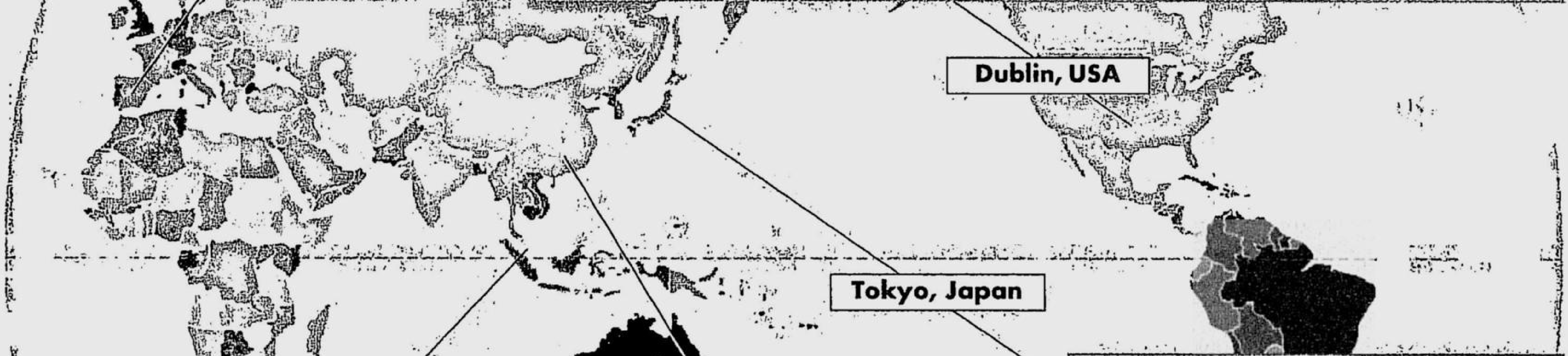
RUPERT Grint (Ron Weasley), Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter) and Emma Watson (Hermione Granger) star in this year's blockbuster movie "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

WORLD SCOPE



JP2's Message

POPE John Paul II kisses a child held by his father during a parish visit in the St. Mary Mater Dei church. The pontiff has been appealing for urgent humanitarian aid for Afghanistan's people. *AP*



News Junkie

TEN-YEAR-OLD Shelby Waite lays on the living room floor of her Dublin, Ohio, home with newspapers she has been reading daily since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. "It's interesting to know what's happening and stuff like that," says Waite. *AP*

Malaysian Recycling Day

A KID plays at a rubber structure playground of Petronas Twin Towers at Bukit Jalil Square on the first National Recycling Day. Malaysia's officials say citizens produce enough waste to fill the world's tallest twin towers in just nine days. *AP*

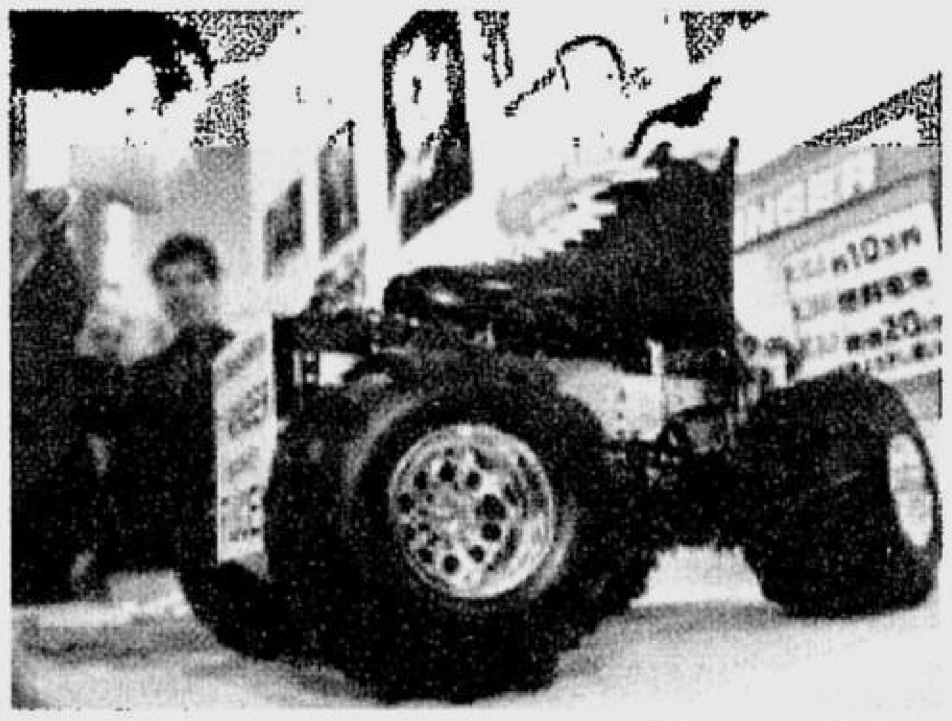
Tiger in China

GOLF champ Tiger Woods shares a light moment with a 5-year-old Chinese girl Feng Yue, who is playing golf with him during an exhibition match. Tiger Woods, paying his first visit to China, participated in an exhibition match facing challenges from top Asian professionals. *AP*

Power Boots

A BATTERY-POWERED boot is displayed at the World Genius Convention in Tokyo. Japanese inventor Dr. Yoshiro NakaMats, who claims to have invented the floppy disk and ranks himself alongside Archimedes and Marie Curie as one of history's greatest scientists, says the boot can propel its wearer faster than a speeding bicycle. He just didn't explain how one can control such footware. Ooops!

Reuters



OF HOGWARTS, QUIDDITCH AND YOU-KNOW-WHO

(from page 1)

OK, so no movie is perfect right? Like, this movie has some disappointments too. So they cut off some parts which honestly, I was very interested in seeing too. Still, many people who read the book probably have high expectations. But hey! The rest of the movie compensated for it. Besides, think about it, I bet if you didn't actually read the book, you'd think it rocks. Just like that! Like I said, it was 153 minutes of pure wizardry, now beat that!

Like They Stepped Out of the Book

Hogwarts was everything I dreamt it to be. I mean, the school itself was absolutely fascinating! Every single detail, from the so-called moving staircases to the much talked-about moving paintings! The teachers on the other hand were well, not really what I had imagined but they'll do. Snape may still exude creepiness, forget the fact that he doesn't look that creepy while Professor Quirell doesn't stutter much. Professor McGonagall seems a bit younger in my imagination but Albus Dumbledore fitted perfectly through the stencil of his image in my brain. Hagrid was well, Hagrid.

Of Hogwarts/ p.11

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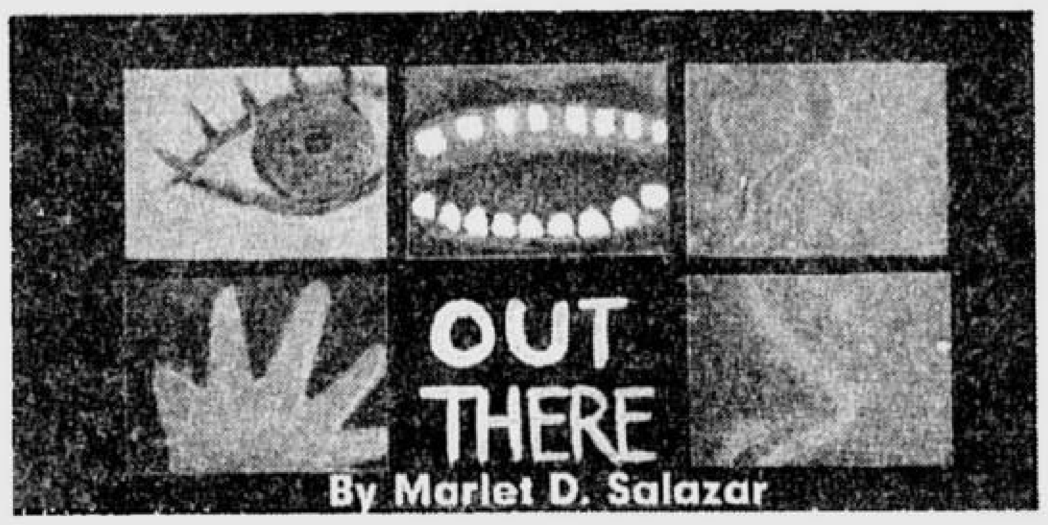


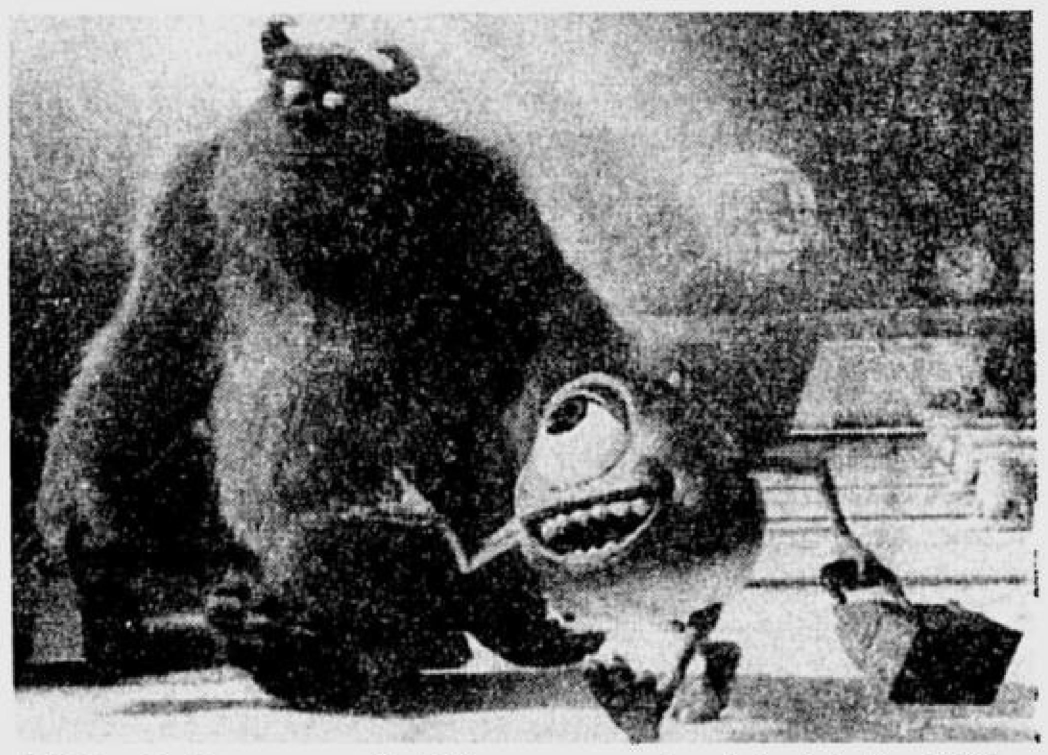
By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Activities

BOOK SALE! Attention book lovers, Adarna House is holding another Christmas sale until Dec. 15. Choose from loads of titles of storybooks and manuals. Visit now at Adarna House Showroom, 73-A Scout Limbaga, Bgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Also check out the Showroom Gallery featuring the works of some of their illustrators. They now also have an activity and storytelling area for you kids. For inquiries contact Hannah or Allan at 372-3548 to 49 or 410-5200.

A PIXIE BIRTHDAY! Spend your birthday in magical Pixie Village. Choose among these four party themes: The Elfin Wave Adventure, Fairy's Wheel of Fun Party, Carousel Party and Fly-High birthday party. Pixie Forest is an indoor fantasy forest amusement center for kids and their families. Call up 850-3568.



NO. 1 Scarer Sullivan and sidekick Mike Wzowski of "Monsters Inc."

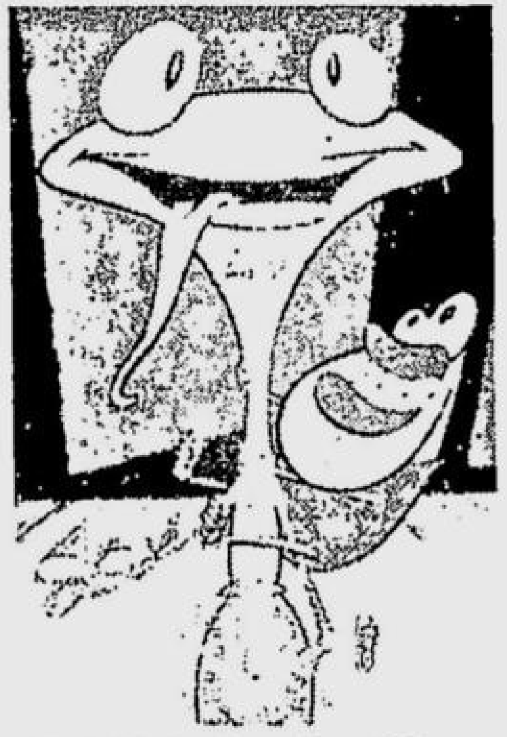
Movies

MONSTER INC. On Nov. 28 you'll get to see Sullivan, the No. 1 Scarer who is huge, intimidating monster with blue fur, and his Scare assistant, best friend and roommate Mike Wzowski, a green, feisty little one-eyed monster. "Monster Inc." is brought to you by Pixar and opens in Metro Manila theaters on Nov. 28.

Cable Picks

ADOPT A WILD ANIMAL. Tomorrow you'll have a chance to watch and help save some of the endangered animals. Animal Planet airs "Adopt a Wild Animal Day" at 1 p.m. Viewers can make donations to various wildlife organizations, including Word Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society and the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund, by calling in the numbers to be flashed onscreen. Get involved and don't miss this chance where you can make a difference!

DOLPHIN SPIRIT. Ever wondered why dolphins are intelligent? Find out why on Nov. 26 at 8 p.m when Animal Planet airs "Kindred Spirit."



MEET Colin the Chameleon on "Toon shorts" only on Cartoon Network.

TOON SHORTS. Get ready to meet with the new toon stars appearing on Cartoon Network. Three fantastic brand-new shorts "Thrillseeker," "Evil Con Carne," and "Colin vs the World" featuring the coolest new characters. "Thrillseeker" is a story of three quirky characters that are constantly searching for extreme adventures. "Evil Con Carne" follows the evil antics of an insane brain that is attached to the body of a bear. And "Colin vs the World" is a story about a color-blind chameleon who moves to the big city to fulfill his dream of becoming a famous lizard. Catch them all on Nov. 26 at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Me and Harry

BY LYRA ABUEG GARCELLANO

I RECEIVED my first copy of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' during Christmas 1999. Several months after, with time to kill between chores, I finally decided to check out what the hullabaloo was all about. A couple of chapters later, reality hit and I had to tear myself away from the book to finish my housework. Hooked, I finished the book in two days and couldn't stop raving about it. Awesome. Pure, intensifying coolness. Electrifyingly head-whuppin'.

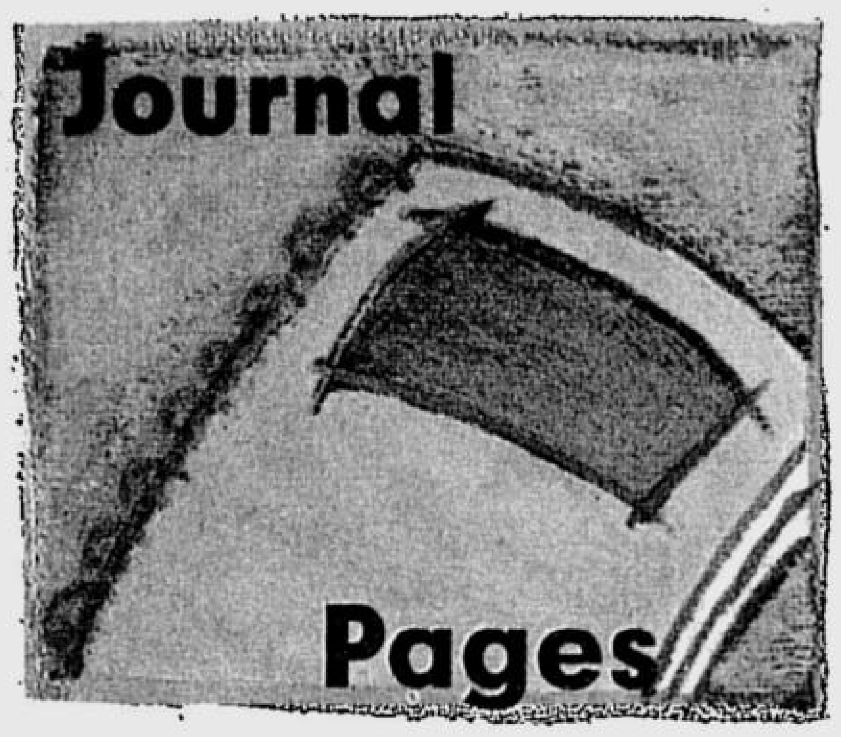
I realized it was one of those life-changing moments. Since then, almost everything has become analogous to HP. The train I rode in Kuala Lumpur became the Hogwarts Express, the neighborhood thugs were called the Slytherin boys, and my friend's potbellied kitten purred like a Harley so he was named Harley Potter. Now that I have the HP chronicles and supplements, I'm also on the lookout for anything and everything HP. I need a continuous Potter fix. And I'm definitely not alone. With both children and adult fans globally, the books are published in 200 countries and in 47 languages, from Albanian to Zulu. There are four HP books out so far. This means that there are three more books for fans to anticipate (the seventh supposedly being the biggest and the longest). All seven books chronicle the years that Harry and his friends spend in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

My sister also send me HP downloads, magazine clippings and other HP kootchiekoos. I a incredibly pleased with my HP loot. In the course of my Harry Potterama, I learned that the Bloomsbury edition in England is titled "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," whereas the Scholastic version in the US used the Sorcerer's Stone title. In the movie, the British title is retained in England, whereas. . .The Sorcerer's Stone is used worldwide.

In July 2000, I asked my sister in Singapore to buy the fourth books on the day of its release. She was horrified at the idea of waiting in line for hours just for a book for me and only agreed after I had appealed to her sibling sensibility. Plus the fact that I told her to imagine that she was queuing for a "Star Wars" ticket. (She's a "Star Wars" devotee. Incidentally, some sequences on the set in the HP movie were shot at Leavesden studios in Hertfordshire, where "The Phantom Menace was filmed.)

With the film coming out, it's interesting to note that the British Tourist Authority is publishing a "Potter Around Britain" map so travelers can see for themselves the key places the movie was shot in. Several cathedrals, private schools and castles were used.

There is a certain degree of wariness among HP fans about the film. They're worried it won't be true to the book. However, there is still tremendous excitement over its release. Who doesn't want to see a live action Quidditch match??!! Then there's the gothic-ish scenery, costumes, magic, creatures and characters to look forward to. But definitely it's the way cool, heart-rending, and brain-poppin' story we would all like to relive.

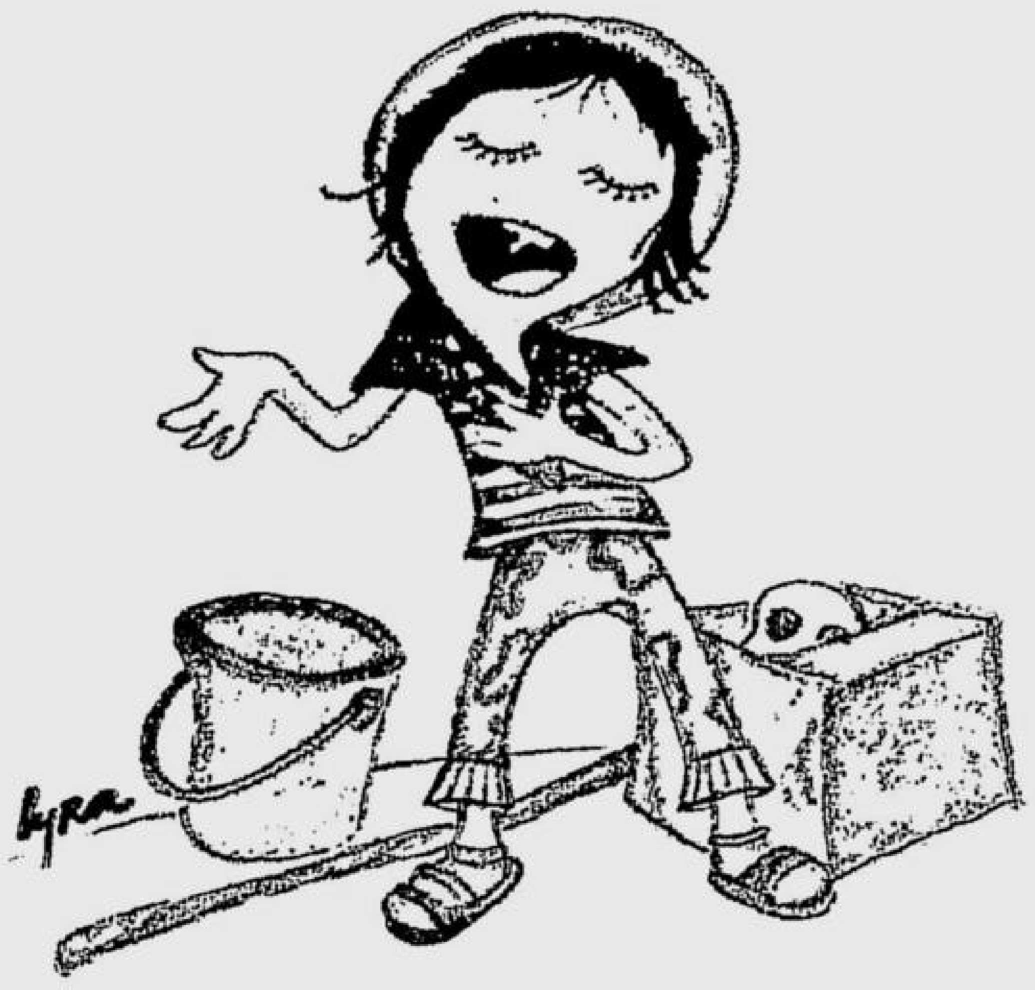


The Storytelling Contest

BY NATASHA KIM A. GUZMAN
POVEDA LEARNING CENTER

THE DAY finally came! My other classmates and I would compete in a storytelling contest during Reading period. I was confident that I would be chosen to represent my section and compete in the bigger contest. I knew that all my hard work practicing would finally pay off!

I had a shy friend whom I went with to practice at recess one last time. She volunteered to participate, too! By the time our Reading teacher entered the classroom, my friend and I were nervous. I gathered my props—a hood, a shawl, a monkey skull, a pail, a long stick, and a box. My classmates were eager to look at my props, especially the monkey skull.



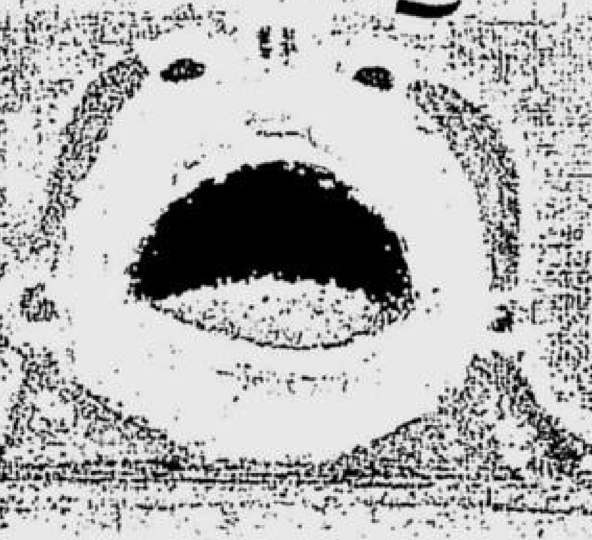
My friend delivered her story before me, but not long after, I delivered next. Most of my classmates cheered for me and I got more confident. After all the participants finished, it was time for our teacher to announce the representatives of the class. It was a tie between my friend and I!

But our teacher had to trim it down to one and she chose my friend. I became the understudy.

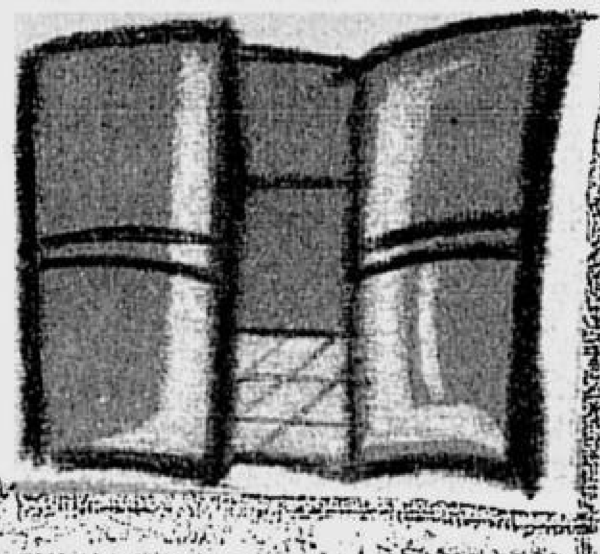
Well, maybe I'll make it next time. Try and try until you succeed!

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



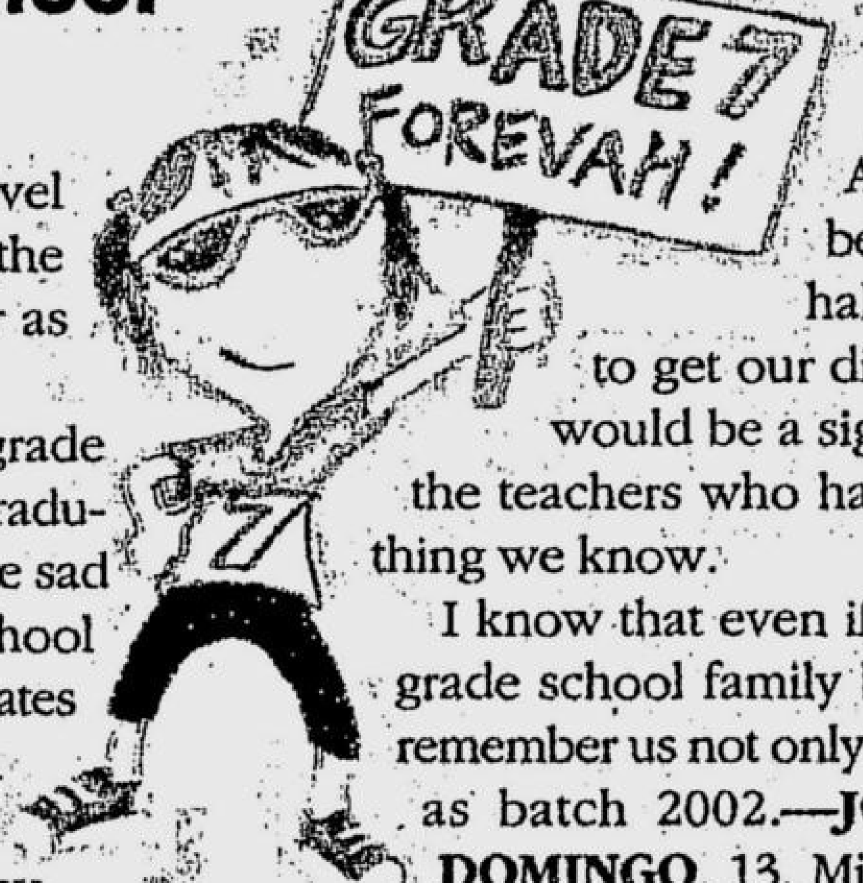
Goodbye Grade School

DEAR Editor,

For me, Grade 7 is the hardest level in grade school. Not only because of the lessons but because it's our last year as grade school students.

There are two sides to leaving grade school life. The nice part is that after graduation we would be in high school. The sad part would be leaving our grade school family behind. Our teachers and classmates had been our second family for seven years.

In grade school we were taught many things like addition, subtraction, saying a prayer and many other things.



On March or April 2002 we will be marching down the hall, going up a stage to get our diplomas. For us that would be a sign to bid farewell to the teachers who have taught us everything we know.

I know that even if we are leaving the grade school family behind, they would remember us not only individually but also as batch 2002.—**JOAN THERESE T. DOMINGO**, 13, Miriam College Grade School

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'Andres'

History books say Andres Bonifacio did not even finish high school. Find out how he emerged as very intelligent, compassionate and able leader of the Katipunan during the revolution against Spain

ESSAY BY RACHEL SO

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOANNE DE LEON

WE often see young children selling things, from sweepstakes tickets to sampaguitas. But did you know that one of our heroes earned a living that way?

His name was Andres Bonifacio.

Andres was only 14 years old when he was orphaned of both parents. He had five brothers and sisters to support, namely, Ciriaco, Procopio, Troadio, Espiridiona, and Maxima. Because of this, he had to stop his schooling to help support them.

He did this by making paper fans and bamboo canes. He went around selling them. In the evenings, his brothers and sisters helped him in gathering the young, pliant bamboo used in making the canes. Andres also taught them how to make these objects. With their help he had more to sell the next day.

Andres also made posters for business firms because he had beautiful penmanship.

When he became a little older, he was hired by a foreign firm named Fleming and Company. Because he was hardworking and trustworthy, he became first a messenger and then a broker of tar and other commodities.

But his income was not enough to support him and his family. He transferred to a German firm, Fressel and Company, as a storekeeper.

Today, there are some people who frown upon Bonifacio. They think he was unschooled and illiterate because he didn't even finish high school, much less college.

But was he really illiterate? Let's see.

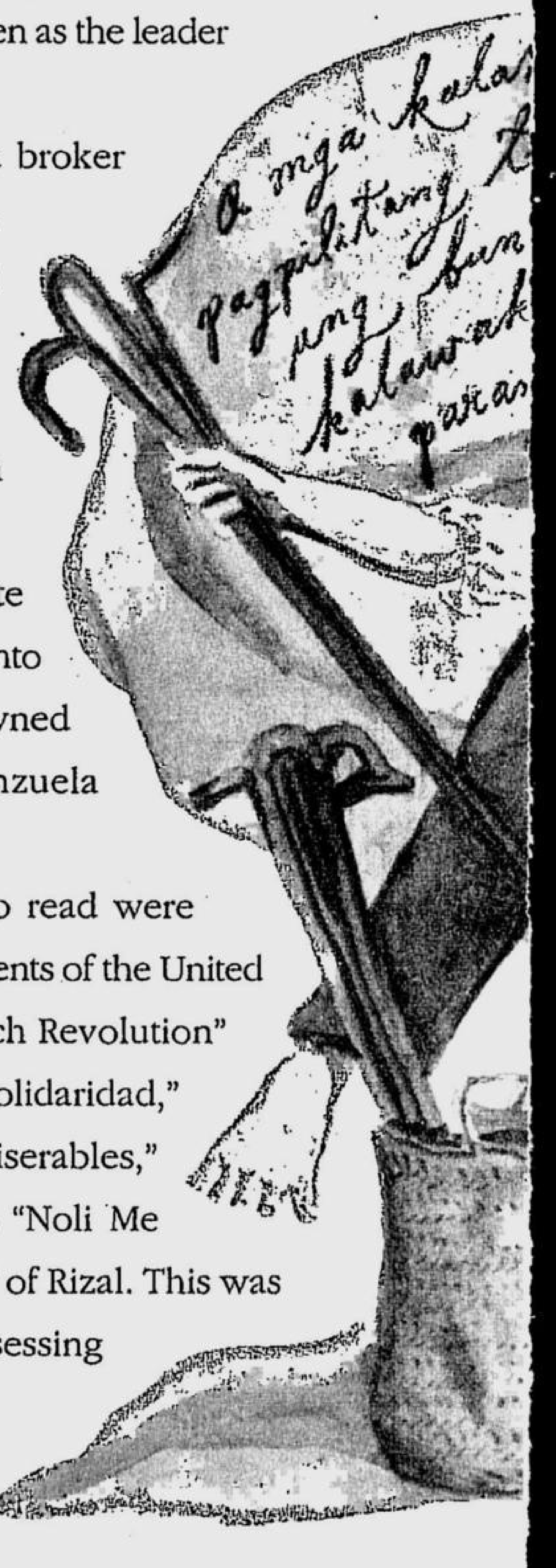
First, let's look at the jobs he held. The making of paper fans and canes does not take much knowledge. But to sell them successfully, one needs practical knowledge on how to make people buy from you. In fact, Bonifacio continued making these items even as the leader of the KKK.

Then he became a broker for Fleming and company. This job required both skills in managing people and being honesty. These jobs are not given to illiterate persons!

Bonifacio also set up a private library with his friends Emilio Jacinto and Pio Valenzuela. Jacinto owned all the law books while Valenzuela owned all the medical books.

Some of the books Bonifacio read were the following: "Lives of the Presidents of the United States," the "History of the French Revolution" in 2 volumes, 3 volumes of "La Solidaridad," 5 volumes of the "Bible," "Les Miserables," "Wandering Jew" and both the "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" of Rizal. This was back in a time when even possessing Rizal's books were dangerous.

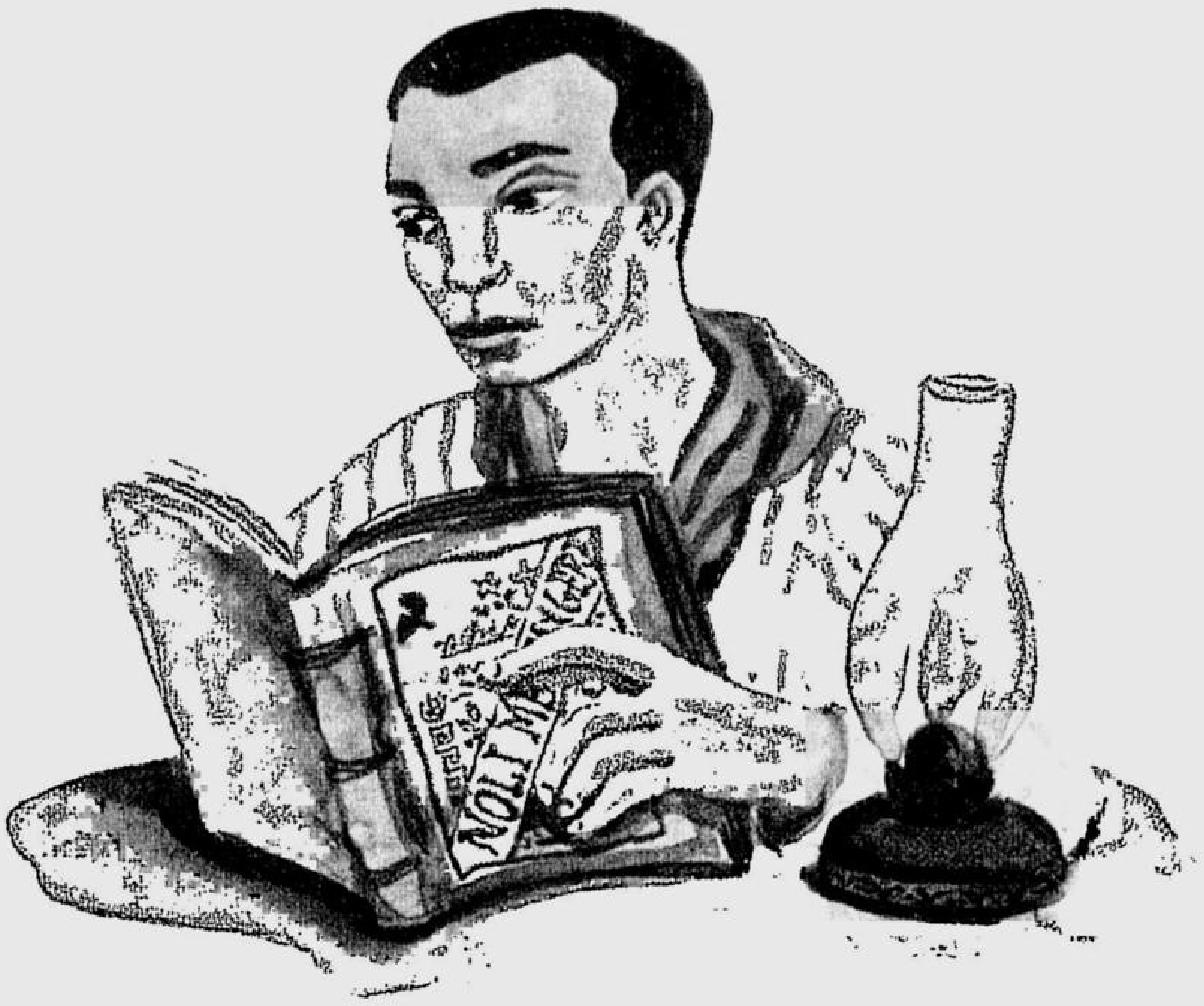
Valenzuela remembers that Bonifacio would often



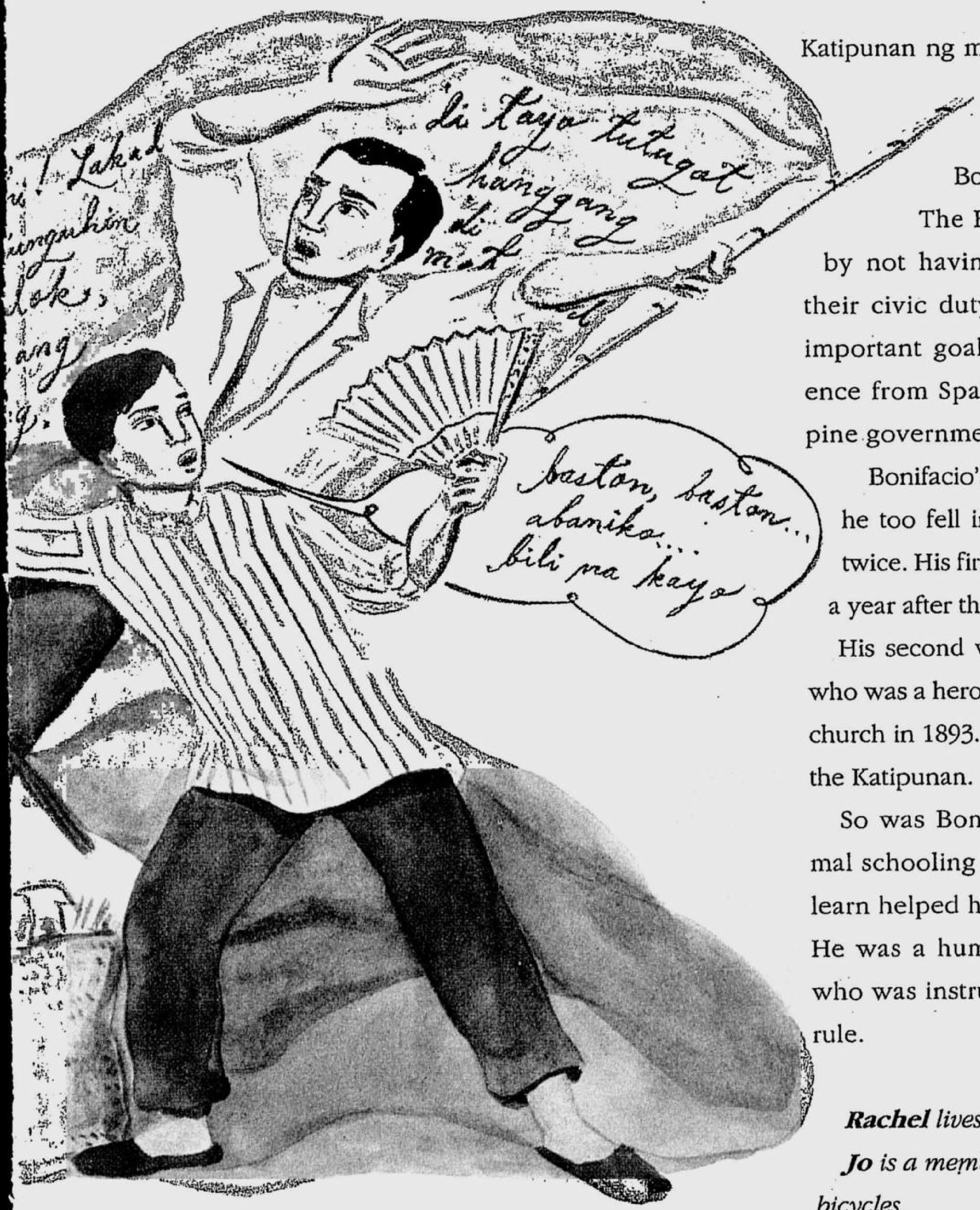
stay up late or not sleep at all just to read books. Bonifacio used what he learned from his readings to prepare himself for the revolution. These books helped shape Bonifacio's mind.

Bonifacio also wrote patriotic articles and poems, but mostly in Tagalog. But this does not mean that he did not know the Spanish language. In fact, most of the books he read were in Spanish. And he even translated Rizal's "Ultimo Adios" to Tagalog, giving it the title "Pahimakas."

Bonifacio was also an actor! He appeared in Moro-Moro's, the most popular form of drama at the time. The experience he gained from this gave him organizational skills. It also sharpened his memory and his ability to speak well in Tagalog.



Bonifacio set up the KKK or Kataastaasang Kagalang-galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan. The Katipunan was the first organized movement in the Philippines that aimed for the end of Spanish rule. As the leader, Bonifacio was called the Supremo.



The Katipuneros tried to set a good example to all by not having vices like gambling. They also performed their civic duty of helping their fellowmen. But their most important goal was to help the Philippines gain independence from Spain, and for them to help set up a free Philippine government.

Bonifacio's life was not all work, though. Like most people, he too fell in love and got married. Actually, he got married twice. His first wife, a pretty girl named Monica, died of leprosy a year after their marriage.

His second wife was his beloved Gregoria "Oriang" de Jesus who was a hero in her own right. They got married in the Binondo church in 1893. Several months afterwards, she was inducted into the Katipunan.

So was Bonifacio illiterate? He may not have finished formal schooling but his patience, industry and determination to learn helped him learn a lot from books and from experience. He was a humble worker, but he was also a brilliant leader who was instrumental in freeing the Philippines from Spanish rule.

Rachel *lives in Quezon City.*

Jo *is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan. She likes riding bicycles.*

This Tall, Inquisitive Dancer

Twelve-year-old Peachy Malabrigo makes up dance steps and likes finding out how things work

BY MAE ASTRID TOBIAS

ONE of the first things you will notice about Peachy Malabrigo is her height. At the age of twelve, she stands at 5'7, making her the tallest in her section in LIDE Learning Center in Leyte.

"During assembly time, it's hard because my head can be easily seen," Peachy laughs.

But her height is not the only reason why Peachy attracts attention. She's also president of the Theater Arts Club and is a talented dancer.

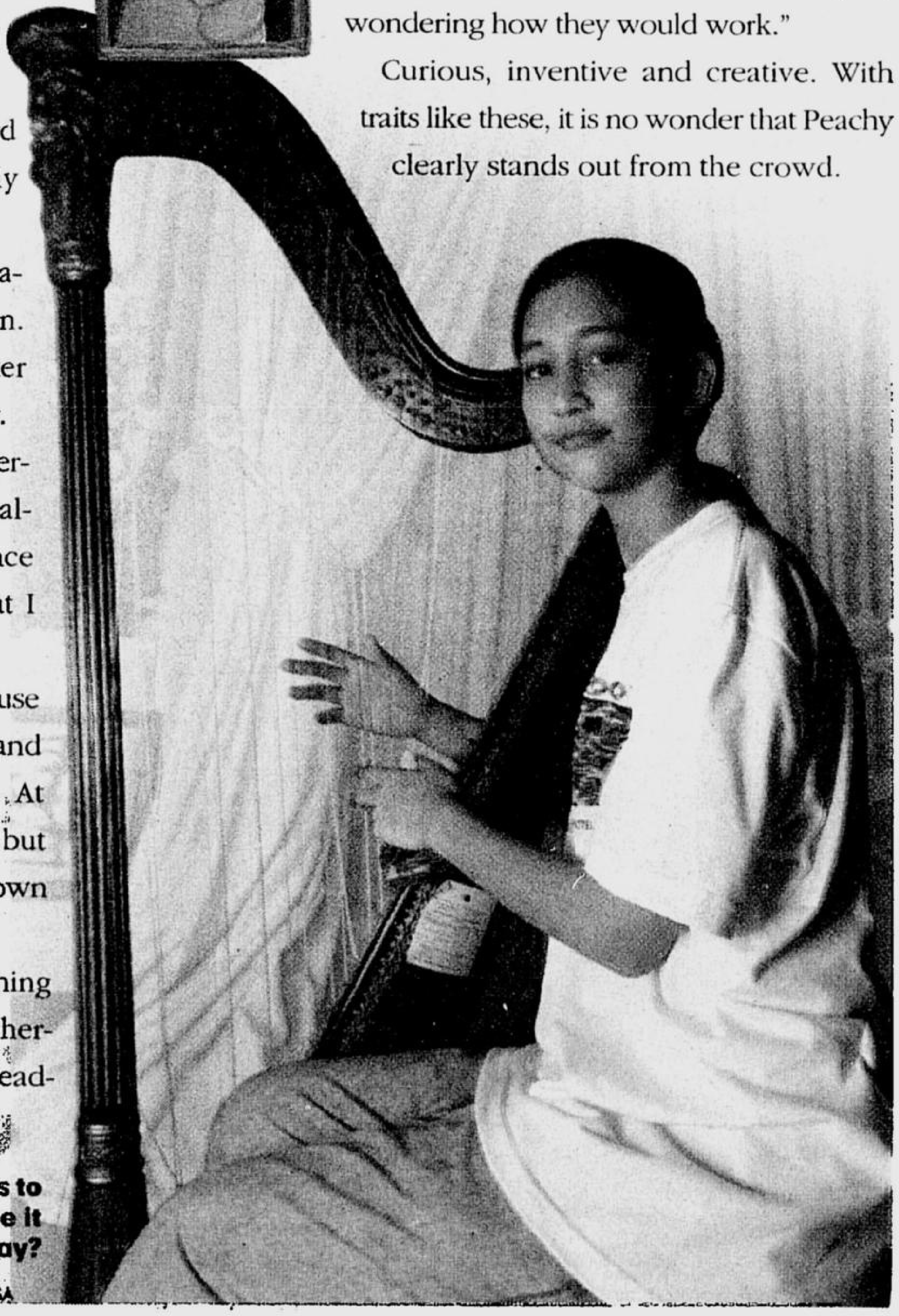
"Every time our class needs to perform something, my classmates always pick me to teach the dance steps," she says. "They know that I like making up new steps."

Peachy likes to watch MTV because that's where she gets her ideas and inspirations for new dance steps. At first, she would imitate the singers but later on, she makes up her very own steps from what she learned.

Peachy is always open to learning new things. One time, she taught herself how to play the flute just by reading the manual and following the instructions.

"I am very curious," Peachy admits. "When I was young, things in the house would get broken because I would tear them apart, wondering how they would work."

Curious, inventive and creative. With traits like these, it is no wonder that Peachy clearly stands out from the crowd.



PLING-PLING! Peachy attempts to play a harp. Now, don't take it apart, okay?

RANDY HORMILLOSA

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

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Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

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I nominate: ____________

Age: ______

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____
____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at

____
____
____

and studies at

____

Her/his contact number is:

____

Sender's Name:

____

Sender's Age & School:

______, ____________

Sender's Address:

____
____

Sender's Contact No.

____

WHO'S WHO IN HARRY POTTER'S MOVIE

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

YOU'VE devoured the book by J.K. Rowling, and stand ready to memorize the movie. So you know who Harry, Ron, and Hermione are, but do you know who are playing them in the movie? Let's find out all we can about "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"! Here are things you may not know about the actors, animals and creative folks behind this first Harry Potter movie.

● **Daniel Radcliffe** (*Harry Potter*)

Eleven-year-old Daniel beat out thousands of other boys to play the lead role. An only child, Daniel had previously acted in the British TV movie "David Copperfield" and the movie "The Tailor of Panama." He says "Spider-man is the coolest!" His favorite scene in the movie is the Quidditch scene. He adds, "It's really cool that kids are the heroes of the film. It shows what kids can do." He describes himself as "an obsessive film fan." His favorite actors are Joseph Fiennes, Ralph Fiennes, Jude Law, and Bart Simpson.. He actually has already had a dream in which he was playing Quidditch and says that he would want to have an Invisibility Cloak "so I can sneak into rock concerts and films." He is getting ready to begin filming the second Harry Potter movie.

Did you know: Daniel is a big fan of soccer and Formula 1 racing.

● **Rupert Grint** (*Ron Weasely*)

Twelve-year-old Rupert is the oldest of the three kids and is appearing in his first movie. He has four other siblings. He describes himself as "biggest Harry Potter fan ever." He really wanted to play Ron badly after learning about auditions on TV. Director Chris Columbus says Rupert was perfect, that he was "extremely funny and has such an incredibly warm presence." He is always making jokes. His favorite scene is the one where Ron plays a game with a giant set of wizard's chess.

Did you know: Rupert's favorite expression is "wicked!"

● **Emma Watson** (*Hermione Granger*)

Though she's only 10, Emma has been singing and acting in school plays for a long time. Like Rupert, "Harry Potter" is her first movie. "I never finish books," Emma admits. Yet she read "Harry Potter," and found it to her liking. "Hermione would be a great character to play." She went through the rigorous audition process and she and Rupert were selected because of their great chemistry with Daniel. Her favorite movie is "The Borrowers," because, she says, "They were really small, but they beat the bad human." Her favorite scene in the movie is the one where Hermione figures out how to defeat the Devil's Snare.

Did you know: Emma is very different from Hermione. "I've never been top of my class. In fact, quite the opposite!" But she's also similar in other ways. "I am very bossy and my little brother tends to suffer a bit."

● **Robbie Coltrane** (*Rubeus Hagrid*)

Robbie is a very famous actor in England and has recently appeared as the Russian spy Valentin Kukovsky in the James Bond movies "Goldeneye" and "The World is Not Enough." He has appeared in many movies, stage plays and has been a leading British TV star, winning many awards. Columbus says that Robbie was author J.K. Rowling's personal choice to play the giant gameleeper Hagrid. Thus, Robbie became the first adult to be cast in "Harry Potter." Interestingly enough, Robbie says he accepted the role because "My son would have killed me if I hadn't, so there was no question of me not doing it!"

Did you know: Robbie was the victim of a practical joke by Daniel. When Robbie wasn't looking, Daniel took Robbie's cellphone and then somehow changed the phone's language into Turkish! Robbie adds, however, "turning into Turkish wasn't difficult. It was changing it back to English that was hard!"

● **Richard Harris** (*Aldus Dumbledore*)

One of the world's most acclaimed actors, Richard Harris has appeared in over 70 movies. You may have seen him in "Gladiator," "Unforgiven," "The Patriot Games" and the classic musical "Camelot." He has also directed movies and written books. He says his favorite book as a child was Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island." He says that Dumbledore is actually the most challenging part he had to play because "he's a very important figure in the stories."

Did you know: Like Robbie, Richard accepted the part because of his 11-year-old granddaughter Ellie. "She telephoned me and said quite simply, 'Papa, if you don't play Dumbledore I will never speak to you again!' So I didn't have much choice in the matter."

● **Alan Rickman** (*Professor Snape*)

Another veteran actor, Alan Rickman was very visible in the movies "Die Hard," "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," "Sense and Sensibility" and "Michael Collins." He didn't read the novel until after getting the movie's script, but says that he was "gripped from the first page and as you keep turning the pages, you get involved with the characters and want to see what happens next."

Did you know: Like Robbie and Richard, Alan was persuaded by young people to take the part. "I have lots of nephews and relationships with friends' children. They weren't so much excited as insistent that I take the part."

Who's who/ p.11

OFFCAM. Director Chris Columbus chats with Rupert and Daniel before the Wizard's Chess take.

THE TEACHERS. Prof. Snape (Alan Rickman), Prof. McGonagall (Dame Maggie Smith and Prof. Quirrel (Ian Hart) check out the new students.

¿ThinkathoN?

By Bong Barrameda

Are You Pro-Proverb?

IN THIS week's quiz, a word from the wise is sufficient, literally. Listed are 15 popular proverbs, each with a missing word. Can you complete them from the given choices?

1. A friend in need is a friend _____.
● unhappy ● distressed ● indeed

2. There's more than one way to ____ a cat.
● feed ● skin ● bell

3. Two _____ don't make a right.
● wrongs ● lefts ● politicians

4. Don't judge a book by its ____.
● price ● author ● cover

5. _______ is the better part of valor.
● Courage ● Discretion ● Patriotism

6. People who live in _____ houses shouldn't throw stones.
● tree ● rented ● glass

7. You can't teach an old ___ new tricks.
● man ● dog ● magician

8. The child is ______ to the man.
● precious ● son ● father

9. A penny saved is a penny ______.
● earned ● more ● treasured

10. A _______ stone gathers no moss.
● clean ● smooth ● rolling

11. Too many cooks spoil the _____.
● customer ● dinner ● broth

12. The proof of the _______ is in the eating.
● recipe ● pudding ● alcohol

13. An _____ mind is the devil's workshop.
● open ● idle ● inquisitive

14. Finders keepers, losers _______.
● cheaters ● sour grapers ● weepers

15. A little _______ is dangerous thing.
● knowledge ● understanding ● learning

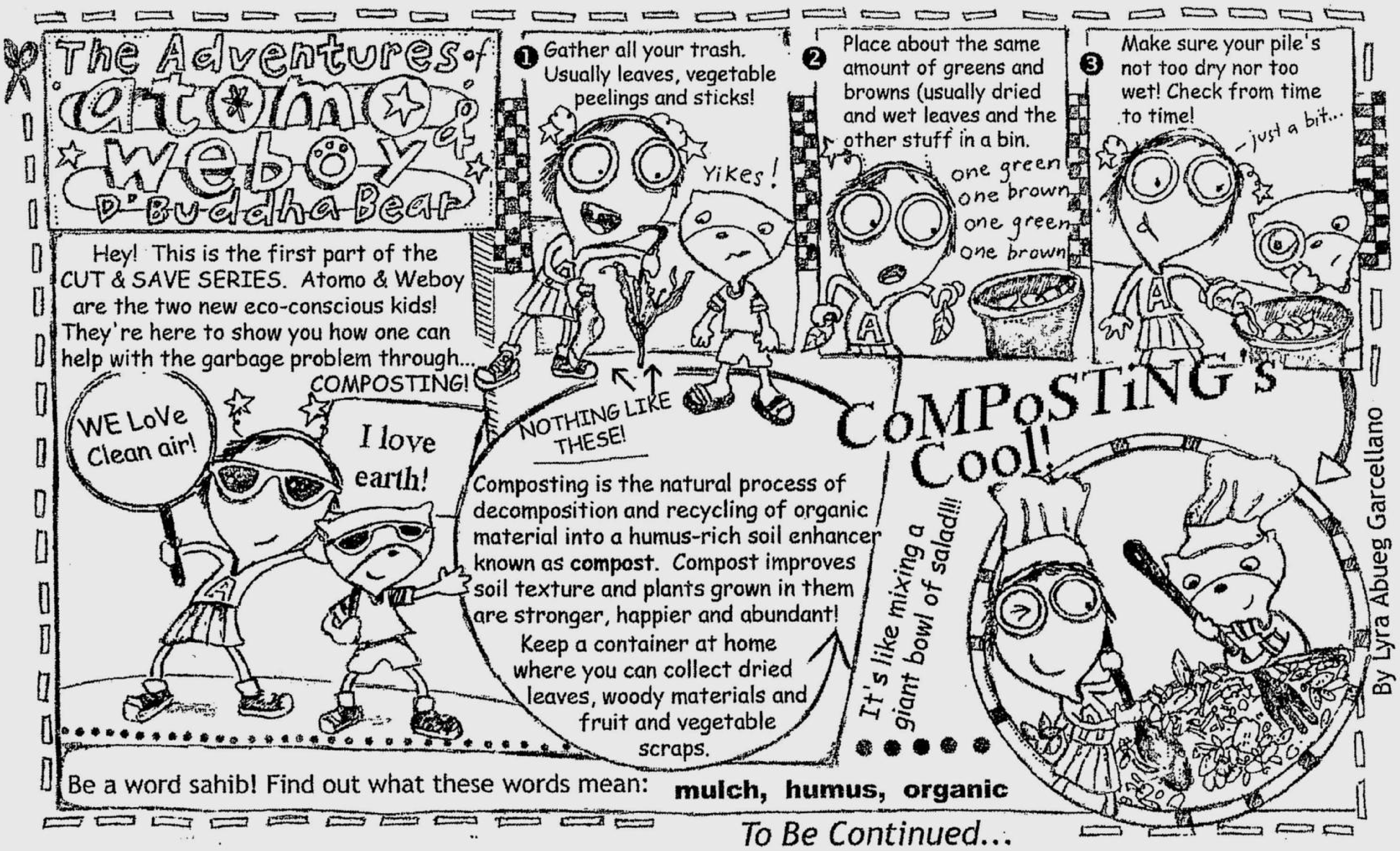
Answers :

1. indeed
2. skin
3. wrongs
4. cover
5. Discretion
6. glass
7. dog
8. father
9. earned
10. rolling
11. broth
12. pudding
13. idle
14. weepers
15. learning

Ratings :

superbrain!
excellent!
good!

superbrain!	excellent!	good!
14 - 15	11 - 13	8 - 10


The Adventures of atomo & weboy D' Buddha Bear
WE LoVe Clean air!
I love earth!
Yikes!
NOTHING LIKE THESE!
one green
one brown
one green
one brown
-just a bit...
CoMPoSTiNG's Cool!
It's like mixing a giant bowl of salad!!!

Hey! This is the first part of the CUT & SAVE SERIES. Atomo & Weboy are the two new eco-conscious kids! They're here to show you how one can help with the garbage problem through... COMPOSTING!

❶ Gather all your trash. Usually leaves, vegetable peelings and sticks!

❷ Place about the same amount of greens and browns (usually dried and wet leaves and the other stuff in a bin.

❸ Make sure your pile's not too dry nor too wet! Check from time to time!

Composting is the natural process of decomposition and recycling of organic material into a humus-rich soil enhancer known as **compost**. Compost improves soil texture and plants grown in them are stronger, happier and abundant!

Keep a container at home where you can collect dried leaves, woody materials and fruit and vegetable scraps.

Be a word sahib! Find out what these words mean: **mulch, humus, organic**

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

To Be Continued...

OF HOGWARTS, QUIDDITCH AND YOU-KNOW-WHO

(from page 3)

Ohmigosh! Malfoy is sooo cute! By the way, its Drey-ko, not Drah-ko Malfoy. How in tarnation am I supposed to hate that guy when he looks that cuuuuute?! And Gryffindor Quidditch team captain Oliver Wood, man, he's got that hunk thing going on! Harry, Hermione and Ron seem like they stepped out of the book themselves. Also, I just wanted to stress out that Fred and George Weasely rock! Though, they weren't in the scenes much.. aww… Okay, right now I'm going to stop describing the characters because I want you to see the movie for yourselves! And besides, I want more space in my article for dadadadatdada…QUIDDITCH!

Quidditch for P.E., anyone??

Sigh… the wonderful world of Quidditch… I was leaning on my seat every time they played! The sight of it was wonderful! Amazing! Wow! I mean, its not the computer effects, but everything just seemed so darn real! From the broomsticks which zoomed across the fields, like Harry's Nimbus two Thousand and other models like Cleansweep Sevens to the Quaffle, to the Bludgers and the pretty little Golden Snitch.

The way they played the game was fascinating! The game stresses the importance of balance, coordination and physical capabitliy.

Does anyone think we should take up Quidditch for Physical Education? I do. Anyway, I can't explain the magic behind feeling this way about Quidditch but I was literally craving for a broom right there and then! Forget the fact that I can't fly and that there's such thing as gravity! I was willing to learn! Never mind that I break my bones flying, Ok, maybe I DO mind breaking my bones but if anyone out there sells brooms and knows where and how to play Quidditch and is interested in giving me lessons, send me a notice through Owl Post, okay? Have I mentioned that I really, really, really want a broomstick? (hint hint, its nearly Christmas!)

Watch it! Read it!

So maybe you're all going "How about He-who-must-not-be-named?" Well, I'm not going to tell you how he looks like and how they beat him and who he's in cahoots with because that's for me to know and you to find out. Well, that's unless you've read the book. But I bet even those who have read the book are way curious on how its going to come out as on the screen. Haha, I'm not telling and no power on the face of the earth can make me tell. Unless of course, you bribe me with a Nimbus 2000. No? Darn, I didn't think so either. Haha. Just a bit of a spoiler, get ready to be shocked by their version of a chess game. I'm not saying its scary or fun but think "Gladiator."

Now, I'm not going to spoil the movie for y'all now. Because you all have to watch it for, yourself to get what I'm talking about before accusing me of being some crazy ridiculous hag who writes for this paper! Besides, if you want to know the story without watching the movie, you could always read the book. Like, duh. Almost any kid will tell you that. Anyway, I've gotta go now, my Nimbus 2000 is waiting for me (yeah, I wish)! Bye! See you next school year! Oh, and remember, you're not allowed to do magic while on vacation!

WHO'S WHO IN HARRY POTTER'S MOVIE

(from page 9)

● **Dame Maggie Smith** (*Professor McGonagall*)

A much-loved international actress, Maggie had received the title of Dame from Queen Elizabeth because of her great theater and screen work in 1970s. You probably saw her in movies like "The Secret Garden," "Hook," "The First Wives Club," and "Sister Act." She had read the book and loved it before being asked to play McGonagall. "I thought it was such a terrific book for kids." She accepted the role, adding, "How often do you get to walk around as a wizard wearing great clothes?"

Did you know: Maggie and Daniel had actually previously appeared together in "David Copperfield." She says she "was thrilled when he got the part of Harry!"

● **Hedwig** (*as himself*)

All the owls used in the movie were specially trained and had trainers on set with them. But of them all, the biggest star is undoubtedly this Snowy Owl who is Harry's personal owl Hedwig!

Did you know: This owl is actually named Hedwig in real life!

● **Hugo** (*as Fang*)

This Neopolitan Mastiff plays Hagrid's loyal dog Fang in the movie. He is a really big dog and Hugo is a mature example of this breed.

Did you know: Hugo had two backup dogs playing the role!

Chris Columbus (*the Director*)

Chris Columbus is best known for having directed "Home Alone" and "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York." But he showed he could direct all kinds of films, because he also directed the hit comedies "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Nine Months," and even the tearjerker "Stepmom." He has a degree from New York University and wrote the movies "Gremlins," "Goonies" and "Young Sherlock Homes" for Steven Spielberg's production company. He read the book in one day and decided he wanted to direct it. He got the part because he wanted to keep the movie as accurate as possible. "I think we've made a film not just for children, but for children of all ages, from age 6 to 96."

Did you know: Chris wanted to become an artist for Marvel Comics when he was growing up.

Trivia for Muggles:

● J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books have sold over 100 million copies and have been translated into 46 languages

● Every single actor in the cast is British and the movie was shot in several different locations, including Oxford University.

● J.K. Rowling thought up Harry and Hogwarts while riding a train one day—making that train the real Hogwarts Express, so to speak.

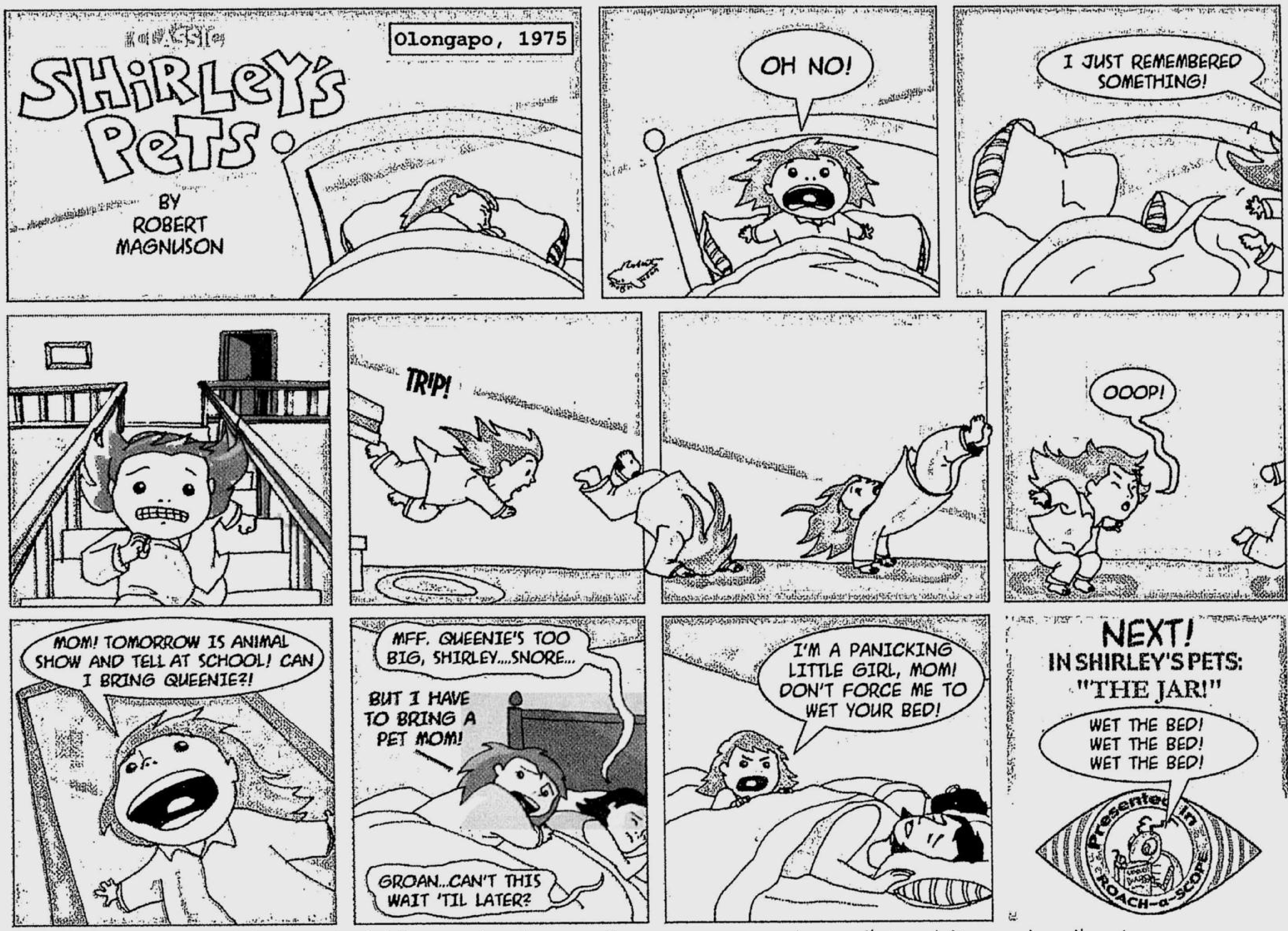
● In Britain, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (the book and the movie) is called "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone."

● In the book illustrations, Harry appears with the lightning-shaped scar on the middle of his forehead. For the movie, J.K. Rowling requested Columbus to move the scar to the right, as she originally intended. The scar was thus moved.

● John Williams, who composed the music for the movie, also composed the themes for "Star Wars," "Superman," "E.T.," the Indiana Jones movies, "Jurassic Park," and "Jaws."

● The fifth book in J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series is reportedly due July 2002.

HARRY, Ron and Hermione look pensive on Hogwarts campus.


Olongapo, 1975
SHIRLEY'S PETS
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
OH NO!
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING!
TRIP!
OOOP!
MOM! TOMORROW IS ANIMAL SHOW AND TELL AT SCHOOL! CAN I BRING QUEENIE?!
MFF. QUEENIE'S TOO BIG, SHIRLEY....SNORE...
BUT I HAVE TO BRING A PET MOM!
GROAN...CAN'T THIS WAIT 'TIL LATER?
I'M A PANICKING LITTLE GIRL, MOM! DON'T FORCE ME TO WET YOUR BED!
NEXT!
IN SHIRLEY'S PETS:
"THE JAR!"
WET THE BED! WET THE BED! WET THE BED!
Presented in ROACH-a-SCOPE

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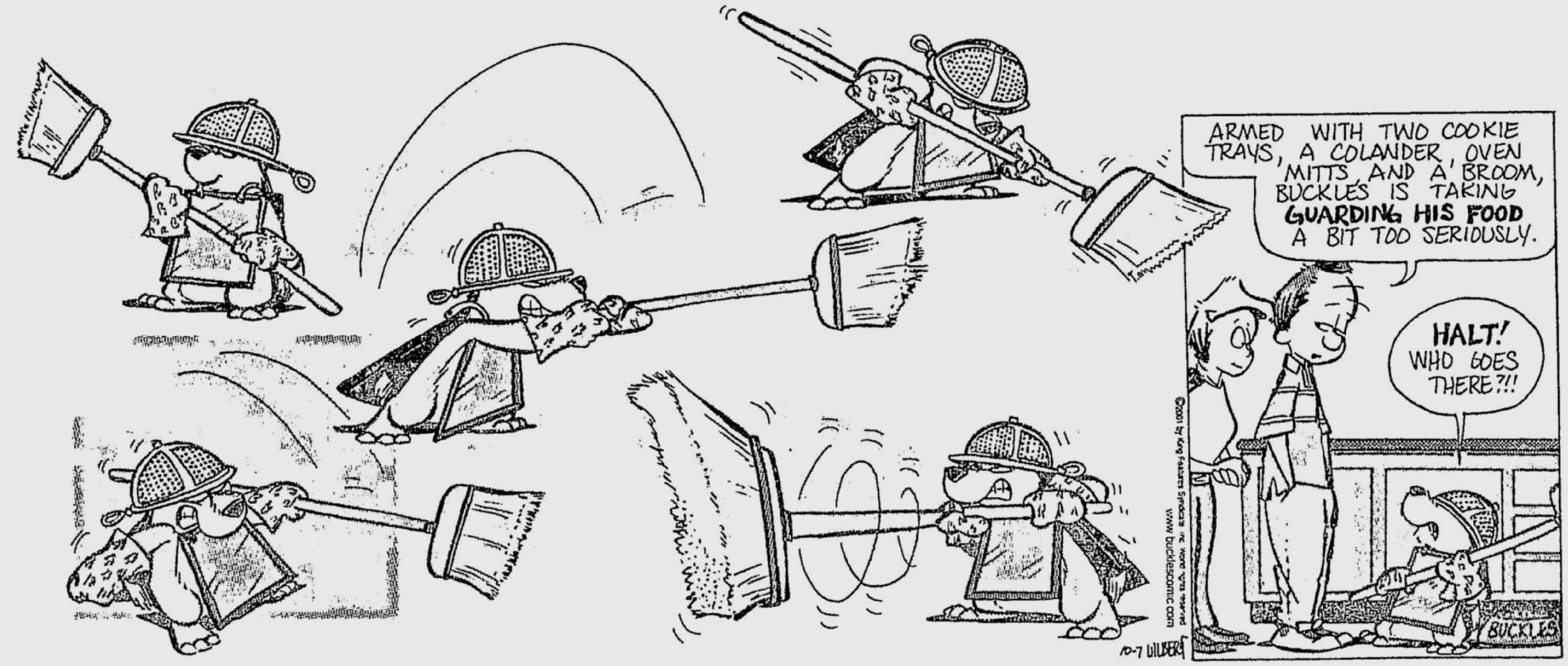
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


ARMED WITH TWO COOKIE TRAYS, A COLANDER, OVEN MITTS AND A BROOM, BUCKLES IS TAKING GUARDING HIS FOOD A BIT TOO SERIOUSLY.
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?!!
BUCKLES
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www.bucklescomic.com
10-7 GILBERT